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Violent, mindless fun in *Sin City*

page fifteen

Rock the Vote's NDP connections

page five

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MARTLET

Thursday, April 7, 2005 | The Unive oria's Indepe er | www.martlet.ca | Volume 57, Issue 29

The struggle against HIV/AIDS in Malawi

pages 12 & 13

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Your South Island NDP Team – Standing up for Students!

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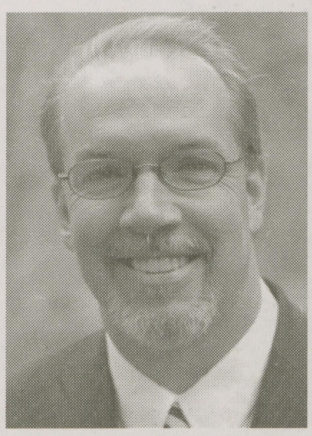
- Restoring the Ministry of Environment to protect our air, water and parks
- Ending corporate and union donations to political parties



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UVSS considers banning slates

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

At their last meeting of the year, the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) board of directors will vote on whether or not to ban election slates, which some have likened to political parties.

Slates offer candidates the ability to pool resources for campaign advertisements. Independent candidates co-ordinate their campaigns without this assistance.

Last month's election was dominated by two slates: Putting Students First and the Coalition of Independent Students.

Director at Large Adam Carver said he is pushing for the change because he thinks the board is turning into two political parties, which is unfair for the students the board represents.

As well, he said that independent candidates are running in small numbers or not at all.

Director at Large April Griffin was the only independent candidate to nab a seat in the 2004 election. In the just-finished 2005 election, Mark Chandler, incoming director of services, was the lone independent to be elected.

Chairperson Joanna Groves said that before slates were allowed, they still existed, but voters didn't know about them. "We're never going to stop people from working together," she said. "I think it would be absolutely ridiculous to assume that because you can't have a slate name, groups helping each other to get elected won't happen."

Several members said that informal groups were not the issue.

"There's nothing wrong with organizing together . . . but I don't agree with advertising together. I think that's something we should do away with," said Griffin. "Some people assume you can't really run unless you have a slate.

"It took a lot of initiative on my part to actually run, as it appears the political arena here is dominated by two parties," she added.

Shamus Reid, a director at large and the incoming director of finance, said that perception is not the board's fault, adding that the board should look to educate students about the differing opinions that slate members take at meetings.

"Recent past has debunked the idea that slates are these lines that have all this power to get elected where independents don't," said Reid, citing Griffin and Chandler. "Slates have a common thread, not party line or party whip."

Chairperson-elect Penny-Lane Beames said that eliminating slates may actually discourage people from running in elections.

"People feel more comfortable running on a slate because they know that in case of trouble, someone's going to have their back," she said. "This might not be a guarantee if you're running as an independent. This could discourage a lot of people from puttng themselves out there."

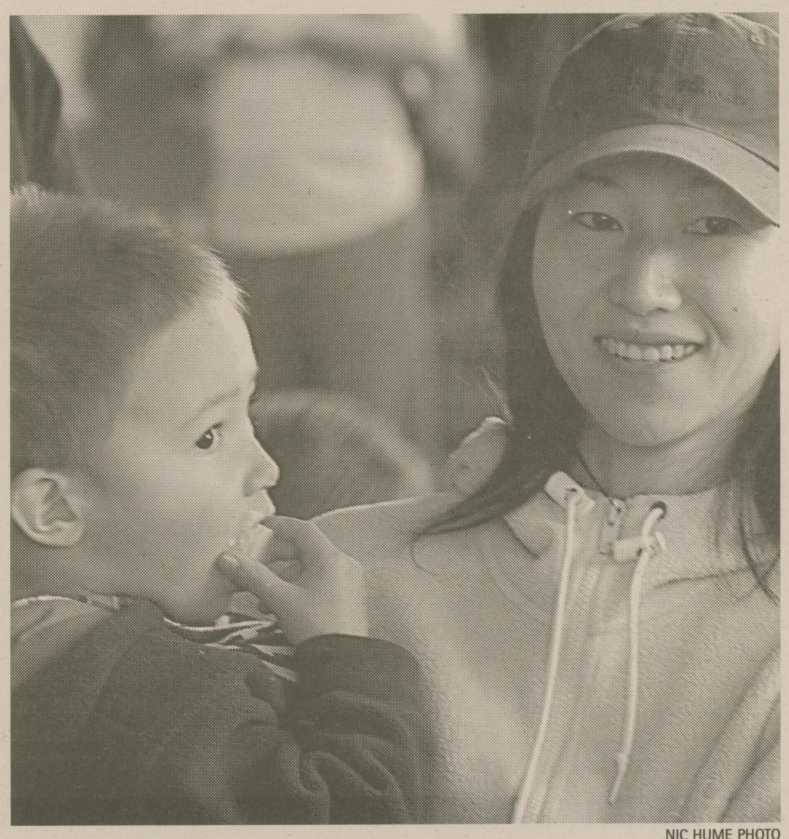
Beames suggested trying to encourage more slates in order to provide greater diversity. Groves said that instead of pushing slates "underground," the board should "think of a new solution that no one has ever thought of before."

But the argument that independents are losing out because of slates kept popping up.

Director of Services Mike Tan suggested that eliminating slates would create a level playing field. He ran as an independent two years ago.

"It is really, really tough and I think there are definite disadvantages to running as an independent, which is why I ran with a slate the next year," he said.

Board members voted to ask the organizational development policy committee to draft an amendment to electoral policy that would ban slates. The issue will be debated again on April 19.



NIC HUME PHOTO

No foolin'—there was ice cream for breakfast

Tyler Gillespie enjoys some ice cream while his mom, Kana Gillespie, holds him at the Family Centre's annual No Foolin' breakfast on April 1. The Family Centre holds the event each year to bring together students with families and to create awareness about the difficulties they face.

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HA 392 Special Topic: The Art of Death in the east Mediterranean: In the Ancient and Medieval Periods.
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HA 363 The Cinema and Modern Art Movements
HA 367 History in Cinema
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A dream of books

by Ashley Akins

It only took one history class at the University of Manitoba to spark Chinese student Arthur GuoBin Yin's passion to improve the future of his people.

Yin drew his inspiration from Plato's classic *The Republic*. In particular, it was Socrates' description of a life where people were captured in a dark cave for entire generations. Their only knowledge of their senses stemmed from the echoes and shadows within the tight walls of the cave.

"Like my countrymen with no access to Western books," wrote Yin in his project proposal, "these people did not know that the outside world was bright and wide."

One day, a man was released. After discovering the vast prospects of the world, however, he chose to return to the cave in order to share his knowledge.

Yin, a third-year history student at the University of Manitoba, wanted to be this man.

It was this desire that prompted Yin, an international exchange student, to create the Library Dream Foundation in 2001. He hopes to develop a public library of English-language books in his home city of Shenyang, China, where he says there is little opportunity to learn about the world outside Chinese borders.

Yin's first books came from history professor Gerry Bowler. At first Yin refused to accept the two new textbooks because of their expense.

"[Bowler] later told me that he was given the books for free from the publishers," said Yin. "And that others would be sympathetic toward my cause as well."

Now, after collecting 3,000 books, Yin has created a room in Shenyang's city library dedicated solely to English-language books.

His efforts will continue this summer with a plan to visit all the major Canadian universities in a nation-wide book drive that will bring him to British Columbia and the University of Victoria by October. He hopes to collect 20,000 books in total.

"Most of the books I've collected are educational, but fiction is important too because it's so close to life," said Yin.

Despite Shenyang's dense population of seven million and the rapid economic development in China, there is still little opportunity for the general public to read about Western culture.

The few available English books are outdated, conservative and irrelevant, and the small amount that the government does provide is often too expensive for the average Chinese citizen to afford.

"A hundred dollar textbook [in Canada] is a parent's one-month salary in Shenyang," said Yin.

And while he was privileged to study abroad to gain more education and employment opportunities for his future, most of his fellow citizens yearn to study but do not have the resources to do so. He believes that, whatever the cost, it is crucial that the people of China be given the opportunity to read about the rest of the world.

"Indeed, China used to be strong, but we cannot survive on the memory of a glorious past," wrote Yin. "We have to face the reality that China must now encounter the rest of the world in a new way."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Arthur GuoBin Yin, second from the right, is collecting English books for the library in his hometown of Shenyang, China.

Yin's dedication to his dream stems from his belief in Chairman Mao's philosophy that "a little spark may kindle a great fire." He will continue gathering books for the city library to keep as resources until he can save up enough money to open a library of his own.

"I believe that every right has a responsibility," he said. "Every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty."

Visit www.librarydream.com or write librarydream@hotmail.com to find out more about the Library Dream Foundation, Yin's across-Canada book drive, or to donate books.

UVic students to volunteer in Africa

by Ford Walker

A group of UVic students will be spending the summer working at a hospital in Uganda.

Peter Hunt, Devahi Balachandran and Natalie Ward will be leaving for Kampala, Uganda, in July. The trio will be stationed at Mengo hospital for six months where they will help out in the tuberculosis clinic and provide care for patients with HIV/AIDS.

They will also be involved in a research project to see if nutritional supplements (specifically selenium) provide any help combatting the disease.

As the AIDS pandemic affects most African nations, volunteers willing to help out with on-site research are in desperate need.

Doctors from Victoria created the project, and local fundraising has provided money for the hospital. Dr. Harold Foster came up with the idea 10 years ago, and since then Drs. Jim Sparling and Sydney Price-Sparling have taken over the organizational aspect of the program. Volunteers have been going to Uganda to work in the clinic for five years.

Selenium, along with various vitamins and amino acids, is hoped to provide an alternative to the expensive drug cocktails provided by the Western nations. Foster has high hopes that the treatment will help prevent people from contracting HIV.

"As over 5,000 people die of AIDS every day, mostly in Africa," said Hunt, "a cheap treatment is desperately needed."

While Hunt holds a master's degree in genetics and Balachandran recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology and psychology, their training will not be as thorough as what they will learn while volunteering. "Speaking with past volunteers," said Balanchandran, "they said you will learn more on the trip then what you have in school."

While a local Rotary Club is helping to subsidize the trips, costs are still very high. Balachandran said the plane tickets cost around $3,000. Living costs will be close to $500 per month. In addition, the shots required for the trip could cost a couple hundred dollars.

Hunt is planning a fundraiser to help offset the costs. A concert, art show and silent auction are planned for May 7 in the bar under Swans pub. Doors will open at noon for the art show and silent auction, while the reception and music start at 7 p.m.

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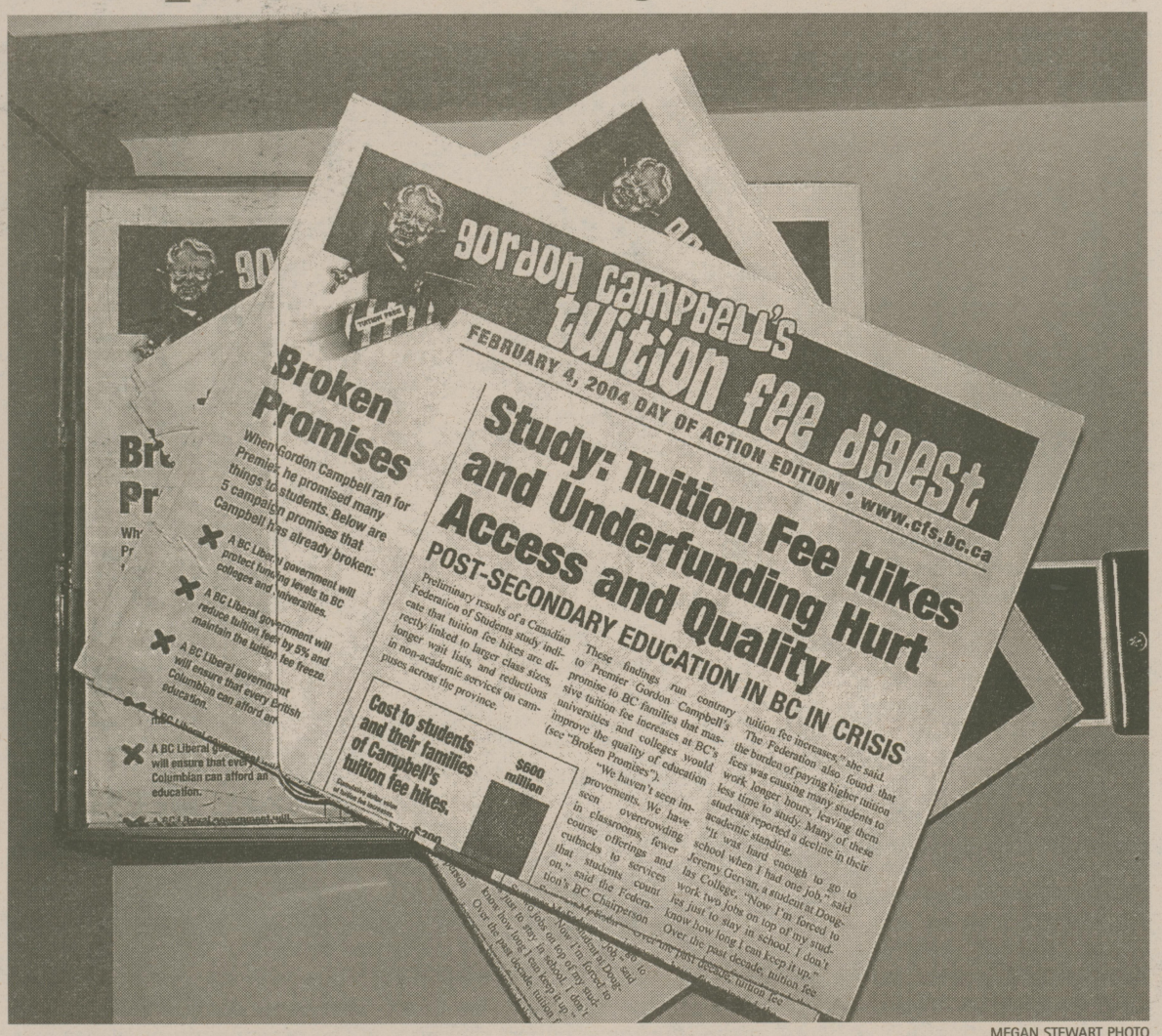
Political, not partisan, says Rock the Vote

by Megan Stewart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Cost to students and their families of Campbell's tuition fee hikes.
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MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

Even though past Canadian Federation of Students' campaigns have targeted Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals, the group says that neither they nor Rock the Vote is partisan.

A voter registration campaign initiated by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and targeted at students has been accused of promoting partisan politics.

Representatives for Rock the Vote BC (RTV), however, insist the group is interested in registering young voters, not in bringing down the Liberals or endorsing another party.

University of Victoria student Paul Franken says he was approached by an RTV organizer during a campus visit in early February and encouraged to register to vote in order to "kick out the Campbell Liberals."

One of the two RTV co-ordinators, Jason O'Brien, said that Franken likely interacted with a volunteer during the February RTV visit to campus. He said volunteers go through extensive training that includes "absolutely no partisan leaning whatsoever." In fact, O'Brien said it is his job to maintain the integrity of the campaign and ensure RTV appears politically neutral.

Franken wrote an editorial article for *the Martlet* on March 24, pointing out that RTV is staffed by many past NDP organizers. He believes the goal to register apathetic, young voters is "laudable," but the "admirable idea . . . becomes a partisan sham" because of connections to the NDP.

For example, RTV spokesperson Nathan Allen is a member of the NDP and a former executive assistant of NDP MLA Jenny Kwan. During the 2001 election, Am Johal, a recent co-ordinator of RTV, ran for the NDP against Gordon Campbell in the Vancouver/Point Grey riding.

RTV, which was founded by members of CFS in August 2004, writes on their website that they are "a non-partisan campaign to increase youth participation in the upcoming B.C. election.

"If you go to school, have a job, pay rent, drink water, or breathe the air," it continues, "[then] politics affects you, and the decisions politicians make impact your life."

BC Elections, the neutral, governing body that will oversee the campaign period and the May 17 election, refused to endorse RTV after looking at the organization's literature because, as communications manager Jennifer Miller said, "[it] definitely indicated partisanship."

After a review of the material in November of last year, Miller said BC Elections found evidence that RTV "opposes indirectly to current government." RTV does have the option of registering with Elections BC as an advertiser, in which case they could support any message, party or candidate.

O'Brien emphasizes that student interests, which operate in a political arena, are the ultimate motivation behind RTV. "My job is to bring the message [as to] how the political climate affects students," he said. "[RTV] is definitely a political campaign, but it's definitely not a partisan cause."

A significant aspect of current election issues is tuition costs, a concern RTV shares with the CFS. Lisa MacLeod, B.C. chairperson for CFS, said concerns over the CFS's anti-Liberal and anti-Campbell stance are unfounded. CFS, she says, targets any and all political parties on behalf of post-secondary students on issues such as debt, accessibility and tuition.

"We make sure that all parties have an idea of the issues affecting students in the province," said MacLeod. "We emphasize that this is about all political parties. It's not partisan to talk about the issues. We are not endorsing any political party—we just want to ensure that all parties make positive commitments to students."

In response to a column written for *the Province* by Michael Smyth, which accused the CFS of "waging war against the Gordon Campbell government for years," MacLeod writes that no political party is immune to criticism should they limit accessibility to post-secondary education.

MacLeod responded to Smyth's column with a yet-unpublished letter to *the Province*, which she also sent to *the Martlet*. She writes, "During those 23 years the [CFS] has actively campaigned against tuition fee increases and rising student debt regardless of which political party held power, aggressively targeting Social Credit, BC Liberal and NDP premiers alike."

She points out that the largest CFS demonstration to date occurred in 1995, after three years of tuition fee increases under the Mike Harcourt NDP government.

Her letter goes on to affirm that "registering all of these young voters [puts] pressure on Gordon Campbell and [BC NDP leader] Carole James to promise to freeze or reduce tuition."

"Is that somehow sinister?" she asks. "No. The overwhelming majority of young British Columbians supports tuition fee reductions."

O'Brien estimates that RTV has registered over 10,000 voters between the ages of 18 and 30 since its kickoff February 11.

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Native Students Union

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LANGARA COLLEGE

'What are we doing here?'

Co-founder of the Iraqi Veterans Against the War fought in Iraq for 10 months

by Mike Berry

"Warfare is horrible," said Kelly Dougherty. "It's not a healthy experience, regardless of the reasons why it's fought."

She should know. Dougherty, 26, is a veteran of the war in Iraq and one of the co-founders of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW).

"What I see happening in Iraq is that it wasn't necessary at all to go to war," she said.

Dougherty helped found the IVAW coalition while attending a Veterans for Peace conference in June 2004. IVAW opposes the war in Iraq and calls for the immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces.

A member of the Colorado National Guard (CNG) for eight years, Dougherty enlisted at 17 as a means to pay college tuition. She was discharged in August of last year with the rank of sergeant.

She believes the war in Iraq is being fought over lies and is more about oil and corporate interests than the freedom of the Iraqi or American people. She called the occupation "a very destructive thing" that is not only ruining lives in Iraq but also destroying communities in the United States.

She says this is why she is speaking out. "I've been in Iraq. I have a view point and experience that other people don't have," she said.

Dougherty added how returning soldiers are not getting the resources required to address their mental and physical injuries. She said that the Department of Veteran Affairs is "horribly" understaffed and cannot deal with the tens of thousands of casualties that "this needless war is creating."

Despite being a medic for the

PROVIDED PHOTO

Sent to Iraq in February 2003, Kelly Dougherty calls the war and occupation unnecessary.

CNG, she was transferred to the Military Police Unit in 1999–2000 and shipped to Hungary, Croatia and Bosnia as a military police officer (MP). Once back in Colorado, she took up her old position as medic but again became an MP when deployed to Iraq in February 2003. She was in Kuwait for two months before serving in Iraq from April 2003 to February 2004.

Dougherty said there were two main duties her unit had to perform while stationed in Nasariya, Iraq. One was escorting fuel tanker trucks that belonged to a Haliburton subsidiary. If a truck was to tip over, which happened daily in some areas, she said, her unit either had to abandon it or set it on fire in order to burn the fuel and make it unavailable to Iraqi "looters."

"That doesn't make you feel very good about yourself or what you're doing. You're burning tanker trucks of fuel when the [Iraqi] people don't have any fuel and don't have enough food or clean water or electricity," she said. "It's very frustrating because it seemed like our mission wasn't in the best interest of anyone a lot of the time."

PROVIDED MAP

Dougherty's other duty involved raiding the homes of Iraqi civilians, which, she said, was made extra difficult due to a lack of translators. She said her unit didn't receive a translator to help police the Iraqi people until her last month of duty in February of 2004.

"[It's] kind of hard to get a gauge on the situation," she recalled, "[and] find out what's going on, when you can't communicate with the people. You are going and raiding their houses, and you're not exactly sure it's the right house. The men are all gone. Only the women and children are there, and they think you are going to kill them or steal their stuff. You're like 'God, what are we doing here?'"

The general attitude of her unit was originally one of confidence, but that quickly deteriorated when troops were unable to find evidence of weapons of mass destruction—the motivation behind the war and reason they were sent. Dougherty added that many soldiers didn't know what their missions were and just wanted to go home.

Opposition grew as the livelihoods of members of the National Guard became increasingly affected—overseas tours stretch between one year and two years, despite being a part-time position. Dougherty said that soldiers took pay cuts and that the military occasionally missed payment. She added that jobs outside the military were being lost in the U.S., ultimately putting pressure on families back home.

"It sucks to be over there and of course you are going to want to go home, [but] you can't even look at it and say 'Well, at least we are here for a good purpose.' It's getting harder and harder to convince yourself that you're there for a good purpose when all the evidence points to the contrary," she said.

After being in Iraq for a year, she said her unit didn't make any lasting positive gains. Dougherty believes the Iraqi situation continues to deteriorate while the violence persistently escalates, two problems she attributes to the occupation.

"I think we are in a situation now where if we leave, there's going to be violence," she concluded. "But if we stay, we know that there is going to be a large amount of violence continuing.

"The best thing for us to do is withdraw our military forces and instead put our resources and our energy in not only taking care of our veterans, but also letting the Iraqi people determine their own fate and giving them the aid they need to do that," she said.

According to Dougherty, the IVAW's membership has grown incredibly since the formation of the group, a fact she said reflects the growing opposition to the war.

Dougherty has also been visiting schools in an attempt to offer a more realistic view of what it's like to serve in the American military, and said she has received warm receptions from various high schools. She said she is trying to "give [high school students] a sense of hope that they don't have to join the military."

Dougherty is visiting at UVic on April 11 to discuss her experiences with the occupation of Iraq and the growing opposition within the United States to the war.

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UVic budget highlights

by Bryna Hallam
and Megan Stewart

The university's budget framework for 2005-06 was approved April 5.

Some highlights include a two per cent tuition increase, a 40 per cent increase in parking rates and a reduction in co-op fees.

The new budget will come into effect May 1. It must first be approved by UVic's board of governors.

Tuition

Students will shell out more money for tuition this coming year, but the rise will be less than in previous years.

Following a provincial initiative to cap tuition increases at the rate of inflation, tuition will increase by only two per cent.

The tuition fee cap will be approved by the provincial government if the Liberals are re-elected in the May 17 election.

UVic's proposed budget for 2005–06 will raise undergraduate arts and science tuition to $4,324.50 from $4,239—an increase of $85.50 over two semesters.

"This is a very, very modest increase relative to what we've seen in past years," said UVic president Dr. David Turpin.

UVic tuition has soared by roughly 70 per cent since the end of a seven-year tuition freeze in 2001.

Graduate students and international students will also see their tuition rise.

Graduate tuition will increase from $4,492.20 from $4,404. Tuition for international students will rise 12 per cent to $14,000 from $12,500.

UVSS chairperson Joanna Groves said that a decrease in tuition fees would benefit an accessible education system, but she recognized the small increase as a step in the right direction.

"Any positive steps that our government takes, we're going to see them as such," she said.

Parking

UVic parking rates will increase by 40 per cent next year.

The charge for an annual general pass will increase from $192.60 to $269.64. The rates for other passes will rise by a similar amount.

According to UVic Communications, the increased rates will "more accurately reflect the true cost of parking services."

The revenue generated from the hike will also fund various transportation initiatives aimed at reducing commuter traffic to campus and will explore the alternatives to surface parking lots.

The rise will bring parking rates at UVic more in line with those at other B.C universities.

Student parking at the University of British Columbia starts at $584 for a general permit and goes up to $1,120 for a reserved spot.

Rates at Simon Fraser University range from $199.50 to $548.10 for general and reserved parking respectively.

Co-op

The fees for co-operative education are slated to drop.

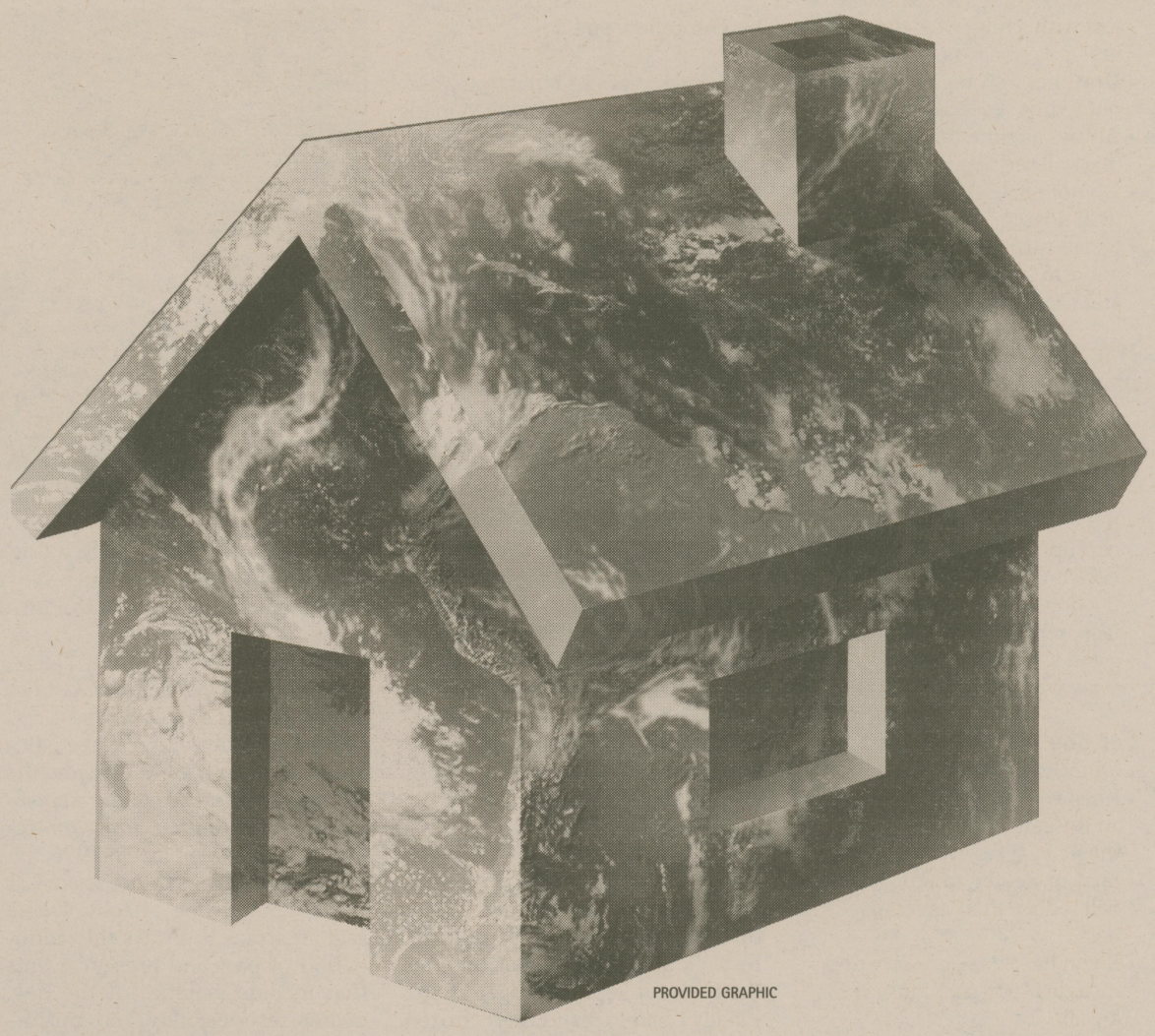
Fees for domestic co-op placements will decrease from $638 to $600 per term.

International placements will see a drop from $1,786 to $1,000.

UN report issues warning on environment

Government must show leadership and take action, says Sierra Club

by Tim Boultbee



PROVIDED GRAPHIC

Human beings are rapidly depleting the world's natural resources, says a report by the United Nations released March 30.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), prepared by 1,300 scientists from 95 countries, also says that damage to ecosystems has occurred more rapidly over the last 50 years than during any previous time in history.

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the Earth's ecosystems are already deteriorating or being used unsustainably.

And while many of the problems outlined in the report seem to concern countries other than Canada, Sierra Club communications director Taylor Bachrach points out that many of the trends reported can be seen here in B.C.

"The thing that the UN report outlines is the fact that we have this amazing opportunity right now to take steps to reverse these trends," said Bachrach. "We need to take the U.N.'s report seriously and we need to look at how it affects us right here in B.C. . . . and demand from our government that they show real leadership in helping British Columbians achieve a prosperous society without undermining the systems that support all of our economies."

As an example, he said, that there are currently "two stocks of sockeye salmon right on the brink of collapse," yet the federal government has refused to list them as endangered.

Bachrach also mentioned that warmer winters are responsible for the infestation of the mountain pine beetle that is damaging the interior forest industry. "You need an extended period of extremely cold temperature to keep the pine beetle under control, and we haven't seen that kind of cold in a number of years," he said.

In Bachrach's view, combatting further destruction of the environment will mean addressing energy policies. Yet in B.C., the current government continues to rely on oil, gas and coal.

"We really want to see serious investment in clean energy such as wind power," said Bacharach.

Instead, Bachrach said, the current environmental standards have been weakened and there has been a "lack of a coherent climate change policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." Greenhouse emissions, he pointed out, are actually rising in B.C. more than the national average.

Bachrach also mentioned a B.C. Forest Practices Board report released on March 4. The document, he said, describes a "systemic failure in B.C.'s government policy to protect endangered species."

But according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, B.C. is committed to addressing environmental issues.

The province "has the third-lowest greenhouse gas emissions per capita of any province in Canada," said Max Cleeveley. "As Canada lowers its greenhouse gas emissions and as other provinces lower their greenhouse gas emissions, British Columbia will keep pace."

One way that B.C. plans to lower its emissions is by developing clean energy through the province's energy plan. This plan, Cleeveley said, has set a target of getting "50 per cent of any new energy in B.C. from clean sources" such as tidal power, geothermal, wind and micro-hydro projects.

Cleeveley points out that B.C. has recently set aside over a million hectares of wildlife habitat throughout the province. Some limited industrial activity will be allowed, he said, but "the areas are managed first and foremost to protect the endangered species that live in those areas. In some cases, no industrial activity is allowed. In some cases . . . 70 per cent of the standing timber will be left."

The idea is to allow forestry to continue employing people while ensuring that species are protected. The province, Cleeveley said, has the largest provincial park system in Canada and the current government has expanded that system.

According to the MA, already some 10 to 30 per cent of the world's mammal, bird and amphibian species are threatened with extinction. Reversing the destruction of ecosystems and meeting demands for resources "involve significant changes in policies, institutions and practices that are currently not underway," said the scientists in a synthesis of their report.

Further destruction of the earth's ecosystems could increase the potential for new diseases to emerge and jeopardize the quality of water. Destruction can also lead to the collapse of fisheries and the creation of costal "dead zones," plus changes in climate and a loss of species diversity.

In addition, they write, continuing destruction of the environment threatens to prevent goals set by the UN in 2000 to reduce poverty, child and maternal mortality, and hunger, while improving education, controlling and managing diseases, and providing a sustainable environments by the year 2015.

A dog's bite is worse than its bark

Experts say animal, owner and misfortune are to blame

by Danielle Pope

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

"The traits you look for in a dog are loyalty, gentleness and a will to please," said breeder Chuck Norwich. "But sometimes you get a dog that's just screwy in the head."

It was two years ago that four-year-old James Waddell was killed in his backyard near Saint John, N.B., while he was alone with the family's three Rottweilers. His father found the mauled body outside their rural home.

Then in December 2004, a three-year-old Maple Ridge, B.C., boy died after four dogs attacked him inside his home. The dogs were reportedly being kept in the basement, but somehow escaped and killed the boy. All of the animals were put down.

Children are not the only victims of dog attacks, however. In January 2001, a 33-year-old woman was mauled to death in the hallway of her San Francisco apartment building by her neighbours' unleashed mastiffs. She was trying to unlock her door. Both owners were jailed and one dog was put down.

These and other cases are forcing people to ask what role the dogs, their owners and even the victims play in dog attacks.

"I think it's a 50–50 role," said Aaron Carter. Carter, a resident of Westbank, B.C., was once chased down by an aggressive dog. "I tried to walk away," he said of the incident, "but it kept coming after me. Finally I had to stand there, frozen, until the dog left."

More than 20 people die every year in the U.S. from dog attacks and thousands of people are injured, according to Karen Delise, author of *Fatal Dog Attacks: The Stories Behind the Statistics.*

Although dog attack statistics have not been kept in Canada, the *Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program* reported 1,237 dog bites in 1996.

In her review of more than 431 cases of fatal dog attacks, Delise said an attack is always the culmination of past and present events that include genetics of the dog, owner responsibility and misfortune.

Nadine Gourkow, the animal welfare manager at the B.C. division of the SPCA, agrees that placing blame is difficult in an attack because there are so many factors to consider.

"There are four important causes of dog aggression," said Gourkow. "Genetic lineage, life experience up to 12 weeks of age, ongoing learning taught by people which the dog comes in contact with and the sexual status of the dog all come into play."

Gourkow also said that when people are shocked that their dog has bitten someone, it's usually because they haven't been paying attention to the dog's previous signs. But she warns that there are more differences between individual dogs than between breeds, so it's unfair to stereotype.

Chuck Norwich, a Rottweiler breeder in Miami, Fla., agrees.

"My dogs are some of the most gentle and caring creatures on this planet," he said. "They would never hurt anyone when treated with the respect, dignity, and compassion that they show their owners."

Norwich said it has a lot to do with picking the right animal.

"The traits you look for in a dog are . . . loyalty, gentleness, companionship and a will to please," said Norwich. "But sometimes you get a dog that's just screwy in the head. It's all in the breeding."

As an animal welfare manager, Gourkow has seen her share of "screwy" dogs and said that 90 per cent of the time the dog is acting out of fear. The good news, says Gourkow, is that there are ways to prevent this.

"The most important things that owners can do for any dog is to provide it with early socialization and watch for the beginning signs of aggression," she points out. These signs can involve a wide range of behaviours like standing unnaturally stiff, raising the hackle, cowering, rolling submissively on the back, pathetic-looking eyes, quivering lips, gnashing teeth, growling, or aggressive barking or yipping.

As well, Gourkow said the victim's behaviour could play a huge part in the outcome of an attack.

"If you come into contact with an animal that is showing aggression, give the dog an escape route," she advises. "Don't try to touch him and don't turn your back or move quickly. If he thinks he will be all right, he usually won't hurt you."

The most dangerous type of aggression, however, is "dominance aggression," which is when the dog is attacking to show superiority. Gourkow said that in these cases, a deep-rooted problem has caused the animal to act aggressively and without intense precaution. These dogs are too dangerous to own.

So should dogs be punished at an early age for showing signs of dominance or aggression? Gourkow gives a resounding "no."

"In many ways, punishing an aggressive animal will cause him to actually jump from growling to biting."

The trick, Gourkow said, is training. She's not talking about dog "trainers," though, but canine behaviour specialists who can work on removing the dog's fears.

"Trainers are like school teachers and behaviourists are like psychologists," she said.

"You wouldn't take a juvenile offender to public school to learn math before you would send him to therapy to learn how to manage his anger."

A solution may be possible for dogs that have "gone off the deep end," but guard animals, often bred to be aggressive, are another issue.

John Pendleton, a suburban dog owner in Canby, Ore., said that owning a dangerous animal is "reckless" and thinks that aggressive dogs should be kept out of cities.

"It's like having knives all over the house and then claiming they aren't there to hurt anyone," he said. "Just having them around is a danger to everybody."

Portland resident Alisha Hemmingson has owned two aggressive dogs and agrees that owners should take responsibility.

"If you want to own a vicious animal, you need to make sure it can't get out and hurt anything, even if what it hurts is on your own property," she said.

Stuart Hill, a resident of Victoria, once had to give up a dog because of its aggressive behaviour. He believes that owners are at least partially liable.

"The owners should be liable for all hospital charges and compensate the victim or family for any psychological trauma," he said. "But if it's an accident, sending them to jail is a little extreme."

AVOIDING ATTACKS

Things to remember
- Never leave children alone with a dog.
- Don't get into a staring contest with a dog—it is threatening.
- Don't pet a strange dog without letting it see and sniff you.
- Always assume that a strange dog will see you as a threat.
- Do not play aggressive games with dogs.
- Never turn your back to a dog and run away; it will chase and catch you.

If a dog charges or attacks
- Get something between you and the dog's mouth, such as an umbrella, jacket or backpack.
- If the dog knocks you over, curl up; protect your face, neck and head.
- If a dog appears ready to attack, remain motionless and avoid eye contact; slowly back away when dog loses interest.

For dog owners
- Obey leash laws.
- Keep your dog in good health; an unseen injury may make the dog aggressive.
- Spay or neuter your dog; it will reduce their aggressiveness.
- If you have an aggressive dog, muzzle it when you take it for a walk.
- If you have an aggressive dog, do not let children pet it.

Adapted from CBC Marketplace

Editorial

Hey: why don't you try voting this year?

The provincial election is this May 17, and chances are, most of the people reading this are not going to vote.

After all, youth turnout for elections blows. As university students, we are directly affected by government changes to post-secondary education, yet the number of us that vote is embarrassing. According to Elections BC, only 27 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds voted in the 2001 provincial election. Voter turnout has been falling steadily since 1983 as each generation of new voters votes less than the previous one.

In the last four years, tuition has risen by 70 per cent in B.C., student grants have been eliminated and funding for women's centres across the province has been virtually stripped. We're not telling you who to vote for, but really, doesn't this tick you off?

An election is the only effective tool we have to voice our opinion. Before you sit back and grumble about having to vote for the lesser of four evils, know this: by not voting, you're abdicating responsibility.

Because of our privilege, we forget about those who have struggled to earn the right to vote. It wasn't until 1918 that women were eligible to vote in B.C. In 1960, Status Aboriginal people across Canada gained the right to vote without losing their status. Many people still live in dictatorships and are fighting for the right to democracy. We have the chance to vote, but we squander it.

This year B.C. residents will also be voting on a new electoral system, BC Single Transferable Vote (STV). As the opinions article on page 11 explains, STV would use a preferential voting system, which would allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference. Results will better reflect a balance between votes and seats, and voters can choose candidates from a number of parties. This means that the message of each candidate, rather than of each party, would be the deciding factor.

Critics of the system say that because STV will result in larger constituencies, local representation and accountability will be limited. Both the "yes" and "no" sides of the ballot are well represented on the Internet, and it's up to you to research it and choose what you think is best for you and the province.

We've seen how close elections can get. Witness the past two elections in the United States, where Bush got into the White House by a hair. Even the UVic Students' Society saw Penny-Lane Beames squeak by with just four votes more than her rival. There's no excuse in saying "my vote doesn't matter." Clearly, it does.

Don't be fooled by the NDP's attempt to Rock the Vote (see news, page 5) or by the Liberals' recent spending spree, which has seen millions of dollars spent in the past few months despite consistent cuts throughout the province in the past three years.

Do your research, talk to the candidates and make an informed decision on May 17. It sounds preachy, but it's true: it's your province and your future, and it's your right and responsibility to have a say in that future. Don't let others decide for you.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write us, or write for us.
edit@martlet.ca

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Explain to me how a TIME TRAVELLER can forget to set his clocks for daylight savings!"

LETTERS

Students love wet T-shirts

Re: Adam Draginda's letter "Still objectifying women" (March 31, *the Martlet*). First of all, I applaud you for standing up for your opinion, but don't ever assume that every other student on campus shares them. Like you said, *the Martlet* is a student newspaper, and guess what—there's a ton of students who like wet T-shirt contests. And guess what else—if there was no advertising money from places like Monty's, you wouldn't have a paper to write to. So keep on expressing yourself, but appreciate the fact that the degradation of women is an issue that is seen differently by many and your opinion is no more valid than another.

Mitch Walker

Right numbers support warming theory

In Diana Draper's article on global warming (March 24, *the Martlet*), there are some serious oversights that need to be addressed. Believers in the theory did in fact do research on carbon dioxide (CO_2) levels in the atmosphere. That research shows that current CO_2 levels are much higher now than they have been in hundreds of thousands of years (approximately 380ppm, almost 60ppm higher than the previous high of about 320ppm which occurred almost 320 000 years ago). I am not personally aware of current CFC levels, but I do know that the size of the hole in the ozone layer has risen from almost nothing in 1980 to covering an area of 28.3 million square kilometres in 2000. The fact that Arctic glaciers have lost about 450 million kilometres in volume since 1961 might give scientists a reason to believe that Greenland may lose its ice cap within 1,000 years. These are only a few oversights in the arguments presented by Draper. Having learned all of this in an undergrad biology class with more than 200 students in it, I would think research with accurate numbers is available to the author of this article.

Ramsay McKee

Get the facts right, Martlet

Not only should Diana Draper's arguments be roundly criticized, but so too should the editorial staff at *the Martlet* for printing "It's getting hot in here." Publication of an arguably wrong opinion, stated well, is one thing; mixture of fiction, fact, conjecture and pure ignorance is inexcusable. This is particularly true when put forth within a publication such as *the Martlet* that represents the collective UVic student body. If nothing else, *the Martlet* must uphold at least minimal standards for coherency. Draper frequently contradicts herself and fails to complete logical thoughts, not to mention her obvious and complete lack of background research. I agree with a previous letter to *the Martlet* stating, "I encourage the staff to research further anything submitted to printing, in the interest of accuracy and truth." Publications like *the Martlet* play a vital role in the transfer of information to the public and must strive for comprehensive and robust coverage at all times.

Jeremy Fyke

Boo Liberals!

This Liberal government has had a devastating impact on the people of this province. They introduced the $6 training wage, more than doubled tuition, forced the closure of women's shelters, further restricted people with disabilities, eliminated key tenancy rights and consistently legislated against the poor. They have cut public services and sold public assets. With the upcoming provincial election, these issues demand our attention. We need to vote responsibly, and for progress. The people of British Columbia, and particularly the vulnerable, simply cannot afford another four years of a Liberal government.

Julianna Scramstad

Which form of cruelty is worse?

Re: "Trio seen hanging dead rabbit outside UVic health-food eatery" (March 24, *Times Colonist*). The UVic Vegan Association recently devoted two days to disseminating information to students about the state of animal agriculture today. Perhaps this trio was reacting to our activities by killing this rabbit and leaving behind graffiti denouncing vegetarianism. Irrespective of their motivation, these acts are shameful. Stories of overt animal abuse shock and offend most people. Civilized behaviour as reflected in our laws condemn such deliberate acts of wanton cruelty. This rabbit probably led an enjoyable life at UVic up until this trio decided to act upon some disturbing urge. The same cannot be said for the millions of animals living (and dying) in cages and stalls on factory farms in all parts of Canada. These standard farming practices are effectively exempt from our existing animal cruelty laws. The combination of our ethic of compassion and our ability to choose the products we use lead to tough questions. My hope is simply that we all consider these questions and make conscientious and informed decisions reflective of our individual beliefs.

John Bowers
UVic Vegan Association

Petty slate politics blow democracy

I was present at the UVSS meeting in which the appeal to disqualify Mike Waters was voted down. I must say I am quite disappointed with the board of directors' decision, and worried about the effects that this will have on future voter turnout. To be fair, the issue was not quite as simple as many presented it; however, it is clear that the board has a different set of priorities than those of the student body. Mike Waters did in fact, knowingly or unknowingly, exceed the limit of posters that should have been up at a given time. But he was also a determining factor in significantly increasing voter turnout among students from faculties that would have not otherwise voted (i.e. engineering, computer science). With a total of 839 votes, Waters was the second most popular candidate. A few extra posters don't give a candidate that many votes. Although it is the boards' responsibility that policy is enforced, it is also their responsibility to use their judgment to represent the will of the student body. We wonder why only 17 per cent of the students actually bother to vote when they find out that their voice does not really count.

Rafael Scarnati

Will the real Slim Shady please cover up

Warm weather is arriving and we know what this means: exposure! Peepingthong.com has already covered this, but we can still learn a valuable lesson from them. Cover up those ass cracks please! The other day I was eating a sandwich when lo and behold a group of girls walked by, each girl wearing clothing that exposed hips, cracks and more jiggly body parts than necessary. I nearly choked on my sandwich at this display of poor taste. Perhaps someone should let them know that the fashion police are out there. I can't imagine why those girls don't take a clue and learn to cover up, because there is nothing attractive about tacky fashion sense. Not only will they enhance their natural beauty, but also sandwiches can finally be eaten in peace.

Catarina Abreau

Wolfowitz at the World Bank

The US Defense Secretary is a logical choice given the direction of the World Bank

by Pierre-Olivier Pineau

The nomination of US Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz for presidency of the World Bank may appear controversial, but it is actually a logical step. Indeed, Wolfowitz's leading role in the U.S. policy towards Iraq is not at all at odds with the World Bank's larger purpose.

When the World Bank claims in its mission statement that it dreamt of a world free of poverty, there are many good reasons to actually believe this is just a dream. This is because the World Bank does not really exist: only its members do. Five organizations make up the World Bank, with the largest being the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

The World Bank is just an umbrella covering the activities of these five organizations. IBRD and its four sister organizations have no direct goal in terms of poverty reduction. IBRD's goal is to foster economic development and, as a possible consequence, to raise standards of living. IBRD is therefore not accountable on poverty reduction or in economic development. As explicitly mentioned in the organization's constitutional document, the purpose of IBRD is to "promote private foreign investment" and international trade, which could "assist" in raising standards of living in member countries. This means that if a poverty reduction strategy involved local, non-private partners, then it could not be funded by the IBRD because the IBRD "shall be guided in all its decisions" by principles of private foreign investment and international trade.

However peculiar and possibly in conflict with local poverty reduction solutions, the IBRD's direction is fully accepted by its 184 members countries. This includes Canada, which is represented in the World Bank family by our minister of finance, not by the minister of international co-operation, who is responsible for Canada's efforts toward international development. In this respect, Canada is no better than the rest—only ministers of finance represent their countries in the World Bank family.

In this context of private foreign investment promotion, the nomination of Wolfowitz seems only natural. He has been a key player of the Bush administration in the invasion and occupation of Iraq, which has led to major reforms favouring private foreign investors. Indeed, a key regulation introduced by the Iraqi Coalition Provisional Authority is an order that "promotes and safeguards the general welfare and interests of the Iraqi people by promoting foreign investment."

Wolfowitz is a man with impressive academic credentials and long experience in international issues, who is in absolute harmony with the aggressive promotion of private foreign investment. His nomination as head of the World Bank will undoubtedly further such policies, which are already the ones in place. The controversy, if there is one, should not be around the nomination for presidency of the World Bank, but rather the question of whether the World Bank is the right institution to achieve a world free of poverty. Dreaming is important, but reducing poverty is even more so.

A death threat with benefits

An update on Salman Rushdie: the baddest writer in Islamdom

by David Crow

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, declared a death sentence for author Salman Rushdie in 1989, shortly after Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* was published—a novel that was extremely offensive to many Muslims. Over the years, the weight of the death sentence seemed to be fading, especially as the British and Iranian governments were actively engaged in repairing their tattered relationship.

However, a story ran earlier this year in Britain's *The Sunday Times* stating that the Iranian Ayatollah has revived the death sentence against Rushdie. It sounds awful, but a quick glance back over the last decade that Rushdie has spent in hiding indicates that a death sentence isn't always so bad.

Though Rushdie was already an established writer and a constant recipient of critical acclaim when *The Satanic Verses* was published, Rushdie was not an enormous seller. This all changed with the Iranian announcement. It immediately created sensational headlines around the world, and made "Salman Rushdie" a household name. The novel itself, which had originally been in a limited printing, saw its demand skyrocket and was pushed into its 15th, then 16th printing and beyond. When you add to this the increased demand for Rushdie's previous novels and the salivation for those yet to be written, it all translated beautifully into the language of royalties.

Rushdie's personal life also experienced a dramatic upsurge. Besides doing the occasional film cameo (*Bridget Jones' Diary*), and being the most famous author in the literary world, Rushdie is now often spotted dancing in London nightclubs with celebrities like Elizabeth Hurley and Kylie Minogue, or his 30-year-old Pakistani model wife. Doesn't seem like too harsh an existence now does it?

Of course, this is not to imply that all was rosy. After all, a number of people associated with the novel were injured, and Rushdie's Italian translator was even stabbed to death outside his apartment in Rome.

And for the author himself, the state of constant fear he's been experiencing cannot be underestimated. But with other measures as the marker, the Iranian death sentence was also the best thing that could ever have happened to Rushdie.

Who knows—perhaps another decade of hiding will get him the much-coveted Nobel?

UVic's Ivory Tower

Administration should go further to stop wasteful paper use

by Ingmar Lee

As Vancouver Island's most voracious, thoughtless paper consumer, the University of Victoria is linked to the destruction of ancient forests and is complicit to the crimes against nature being perpetrated by the logging corporations which rule our province. On a planet facing ecological catastrophe, UVic's chief administrator, David Turpin, should hang his head in shame with his pathetic paper-procurement announcement last week that UVic would move to 30 per cent post-consumer waste (PCW) recycled paper. And so should all the other myopic denizens of UVic who wantonly consume paper without a care for the world.

Daily, semi-truckloads of paper stream through the hundreds of copiers, printers and other paper-processing machinery all over campus. People stand in lineups, staring blankly into space as they print off thousands of pages of single-sided copy, to be read once, marked and thrown away. Although some printers do double-sided copy, the instructions take several seconds to read and are "complicated"—too complicated apparently for the mental calibre of people being "educated" here. Some profs even demand that paper submissions must be handed in single-sided. What planet are these people living on? Look around—this campus is awash in a giant tsunami of paper. Look further—Vancouver Island stumpfields stretch off to the horizon.

UVic students are demanding paper reform. Students are demanding that UVic stop purchasing paper from forest ancient destroyers like Weyerhaeuser. Students have demanded that Turpin convert his office to ethical paper. Turpin's announcement came without discussion, consultation or any strategy for a complete ethical conversion. Recently UVic commerce students out-classed the university and converted to 100 per cent ethically produced PCW paper. Last month the UVSS committed to convert the SUB to 100 per cent ethically produced PCW paper. Progressive universities are initiating sophisticated paper reform projects all around the world. They are finding creative ways to do so, and often at a cost reduction to students. UVic students are trying to lead, but this administration will not follow.

If Turpin really cared, he should decree that all papers at UVic require double-sided printing from this day forward. All new equipment must do default double siding and must handle recycled and tree-free paper. He should also loudly declare that the university is heading towards ethically produced 100 per cent PCW paper.

Within 10 years, UVic students will explain to their children that there "used to be" forest-dwellers like tigers, chimpanzees and gorillas in the world. In a George Bush, Gordon Campbell and David Turpin world, there are insurmountable obstacles to the protection of ancient forests. In these halls of learning, we discuss and debate the dreadful fate of this planet while ignoring our major contribution to its destruction.

Every year students fan out across campus, hoping to drag this primitive university into the 21st century. And every year, their vision is dashed against a tired and obstinate good-old-boys bureaucracy that fights even the simplest suggestions for improvement. It is a totally frustrating and humiliating experience trying to forward environmental progress at UVic. A concerted effort from UVic could stop the destruction of Vancouver Island's final ancient forests. Such action would set an important precedent for others to follow. We need a concerted effort, using expertise from all departments on campus to find a way over the barricades of UVic's Ivory Tower.

It's getting hotter

The realities of climate change from the UVic Climate Modelling Group

by Jeremy Fyke

One of the biggest hurdles the climate research community faces is media-derived misinformation, intentional or otherwise. Unfortunately, the media so often overlooks clear information available to them through various peer-reviewed sources and instead resorts to popular misconceptions of climate change that often are completely wrong.

Great harm can come from the apathy induced by the "it's all above me" syndrome that is perpetuated by poor-quality media coverage of climate issues. Diana Draper has unfortunately greatly contributed to this problem with "It's getting hot in here" (March 24, *the Martlet*). The mix of tenous assumptions and blatantly false statements had many of us at the UVic Climate Modelling Group scratching our heads as to where to begin a critical response. Some major misunderstandings, as stated in Draper's article, must be addressed.

First, climate researchers do study past climate variability. It is fundamental to our understanding of the current climate. We have not ignored the causes and effects of solar activity, drastic weather and atmospheric circulation. On the contrary, these important climate variables have been extensively studied.

Second, global temperature trends tightly mirror variations in the concentrations of several important greenhouse gases, namely carbon dioxide and methane. These gases have varied naturally in the past and will continue to vary naturally in the future. However, humans have superimposed large additional sources of carbon dioxide and methane on this natural variability. A major human-caused source of greenhouse gases is the combustion of fossil fuel during transportation and energy generation.

Third, global surface temperature increases in response to increased atmospheric greenhouse gases. This relationship can be clearly understood through fundamental physical principles.

Fourth, current climate change is directly correlated to the large artificial increase in greenhouse gases. It is therefore ignorant to state, "For all we know temperature increase is an ongoing attempt by Mother Nature to counteract the effects of the Little Ice Age."

Fifth, it is true that the Earth was warmer in the past. However, current levels of greenhouse gases (for example, carbon dioxide and methane) are far higher than in the last 400,000 years. Significant environmental and societal issues will be increasingly associated with a rapid rate of climate change brought on by continued anthropogenic emissions.

Draper is right in that "You cannot bake a pie without the ingredients." I couldn't agree more and only hope that public perception of climate change was not distorted appreciably by her misleading editorial.

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STV works for me

Supporting the new voting system will lead to a more democratic future

by John Bieker

On May 17th, our reason for voting should be to decide what type of electoral system we want in British Columbia—not to either give the boot to Premier Campbell or to re-elect him.

During this election, voters will have an extra ballot where they get to vote for or against the recommendations of the Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform. The Citizen's Assembly suggested a new electoral system called BC Single Transferable Vote, or BC STV.

STV is a system where instead of having one MLA in small electoral districts, there will be multiple MLAs for larger electoral districts. For example, the seven electoral districts in Greater Victoria that each electing one MLA will be amalgamated into one large electoral district that elects seven MLAs.

Unlike our current ballot, the STV ballot will use a preferential voting system, where you will be able to rank the candidates in order of your preference. In the Greater Victoria STV district, there will most likely be seven Liberal candidates, seven NDP candidates and so on. You will be allowed to mark seven (or more) preferences on your ballot.

There are two main reasons why this system should be adopted. First, it is a system of proportional representation, unlike our current system. With the BC STV system, the election results of 1996, when the NDP retained government even though they got 37,500 fewer votes than the Liberals, would not occur. Also, BC STV would not have given us the 97 per cent Liberal control of the Legislature that we have had for the last four years.

It is clear that our current system is just plain unfair to the voters. In the last election results, each BC Liberal MLA represented 11,907 votes, while each of the two NDP MLA's represented 171,578 votes. Every one of the 197,231 Green Party votes went without representation for the last four years. A democratic system should not favour the elites; all of the voters' voices should be heard and represented fairly.

Second, the BC STV ballot structure will give you more choice when you vote. You can place all your preferences for the Liberals, the NDP or the Greens, or you can cross party lines. This type of ballot structure is perfect for the majority of British Columbians who do not feel that one party represents all their views. I personally feel that no party in British Columbia adequately represents my views well enough. I have to pick one party over the others in our electoral system, but the BC STV system will give me greater choice in who I vote for. With more voter choice comes more voter power.

It is unprecedented that the citizens of a country or province have input on what their electoral system should be like. The Citizen's Assembly gave us the ability to choose our system, and we will do so on May 17. I know that I want my electoral system to be fair and to reflect the choices that I make. The future of British Columbia will be determined on that date, and I will vote for change and a better province. You can learn more about STV at http://www.gov.bc.ca/referendum_info/ or http://www.stvforbc.com/

The real public-private paradigm

Lurking behind 'free-markets' are public rules serving private interests

by Jon Chapnick

Earlier this year I argued in *the Martlet* that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is more likely to undermine than to advance the interests of disadvantaged Canadians. I stand by my argument, but I realize that my analysis of privatization had an important flaw—one that pervades popular consciousness and is in dire need of correction with the Social Security such a hot topic in the U.S.

In the words of American legal scholar Lucy A. Williams, my mistake lay in conceptualizing a "false dichotomy" between public systems and institutions as state "intervention" in our lives, and privatized, free markets as "non-intervention."

Most of us have been led to believe that deregulation and privatization represent the retreat of government from areas of social and economic activity. Often justified on efficiency and productivity grounds, the expansion of private markets is usually equated to the removal of state interference so that our lives may be more free and our liberty less restrained.

But the state is never absent from peoples' lives. Whether an area of activity is public or private, government always participates in our social and economic interactions because it constructs what Williams describes as "the background rules."

The background rules refer to a framework of publicly created and enforced systems, including laws, courts, police and prisons. Whether an area of activity is public or private, these systems represent the exercise of state power for the protection and promotion of certain rights and interests. As Joel Bakan, author of *The Corporation*, once wrote: "Calls for deregulation and privatization are about how, and in whose interests, state power should be exercised, not whether it should be exercised."

In other words, the privatization of a public institution represents not the retreat of government, but rather the shifting of state priorities—from protecting the general public interest to promoting specific private interests. The public-private paradigm, then, is more about who's being served than it is about who's providing the service.

For those who support the maintenance of strong public programs and services, an understanding of the real public-private paradigm is worth more than merely its intellectual value. Indeed, it provides an important tool for us to challenge privatization and deregulation schemes as government reinforcement of systemic inequalities of wealth and power in our society.

Take, for example, U.S President George W. Bush's plan to partially privatize the American Social Security program. Under the current system, universal retiree benefits are funded by a payroll tax split between employees and employers. Despite the program's huge popularity, the president proposes the creation of private investment accounts for younger workers, into which they will be permitted to divert some of the money that would have otherwise been contributed to the tax-based public system.

Besides insisting that the current Social Security program is destined for imminent bankruptcy, Bush has tapped into popular misunderstanding of privatization to support his proposal. According to the *Globe and Mail*, he has framed private retirement accounts as furthering his "ownership agenda," by reducing government interference and allowing Americans to have more control over their lives.

But the only "agenda" that will be served by the Bush Administration's plan is that of the financial services industry which will administer the accounts. The real public-private paradigm exposes Bush's proposal as little more than, as one Senator put it, "one big wet kiss to Wall Street." If the president has his way, a system of legal rules constructed to advance the public interest (the current Social Security) will be replaced by a state-sponsored program aimed at maximizing private interests—specifically, the profits of business elites.

Meanwhile, the retirement savings of ordinary people will be risked on the stock market and the funding for public retiree benefits will be depleted.

Americans must now fight to protect their old age entitlements. Otherwise, social and economic inequalities will continue to grow, with a complicit government—as always—lurking in the background.

Student movement needed

Student empowerment can bridge the divide between knowledge and education

by Peter Verin

Historically, students have been marginalized and patronized. Similarly, education has been mystified, thus alienating from the general population. Knowledge should not be a commodity.

To overcome this reality, students need to grasp the concept of empowerment and apply it to their lives. Empowerment is very distinct from power. Power usually involves a few people who are consumed with self-interest, while empowerment consists of students acting together, as an identity group, for the common good. Empowerment can serve to liberate students from oppression.

The anti-globalization demonstrations in recent years have reinforced the idea that it is essential for people to do the right thing for the right reason. The operative question that student demonstrators should ask themselves is what they could do differently under the same oppressive circumstances.

This applies to demonstrators who protest the cost of higher education. Practically speaking, they have agreed that they are unable to raise the bar. They need to first acknowledge the intrinsic value of education and then promote its seamless integration into their lives: adventure, wonder and endless potential accompany doing so.

Students, first, need to give themselves choices, rather than wait for choices to, inevitably, be imposed upon them: administrators get paid for dictating to students how to live their lives. Students, on the other hand, pay to be dictated to . . . go figure.

Secondly, people who claim they represent students need to stop scapegoating and dividing their own kind.

The greatest identity that students have is the fact that they are students. Students should identify with other students because of this marker and embrace the idea that all knowledge is relational; it is a qualitative phenomenon and experience. In doing so, it'll speed up communication between generations and the transfer of knowledge between teacher and student.

Presently, education reduces knowledge to isolated "what" questions when, optimally, it's able to generate knowledge to chain reactions through "how" questions. Instead of limiting students to cogs in academia, students can actively and transparently inform how the university is run and/or ruined. Contrary to popular thought, students have minimal influence. Universities are hubs to which people keep coming, for their own reasons. These reasons don't include critical questioning, examining authority or questioning the corporate spin.

Student empowerment rejects fear-based university politics. Universities aren't repositories of truth when they're founded on a conflicted model. Tear down the barricades.

Kids in the village of Kapapamula wearing donated clothes brought from Canada.

Children at Njewa Primary School peek through windows to watch us talk to classes about HIV/AIDS.

Shaking hands with students at Njewa Primary School.

RAISING TH

A GLIMPSE INTO MALAWI'S

story and photos by Ashley Heaslip

In Dedzaboma, taking a break after dancing for five h

In a village of 300 people on the outskirts of the capital city of Malawi, a 12-year-old boy fixed his eyes on the cold grey cement floor that lay crackled under his shoeless and dirty feet. He raised his hand in front of the awestruck stares of 60 classmates, crammed three to a table.

"If my friend's mom and dad have AIDS," he asked in broken English. "Can I get AIDS by playing with my friend?"

I found it hard to even attempt to answer questions like this. Still today, nearly eight months after my time in Malawi, they are difficult for me to grasp. It amazes me that nearly three decades after HIV/AIDS was discovered, people still do not have the basic information they need to protect themselves. They desperately need that knowledge.

HIV/AIDS statistics are staggering. In December 2003, UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, estimated that there were 42 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide and that 27.9 million had died from AIDS. According to UNAIDS estimates, there are five million new infections and 3.1 million deaths every year. New infections continue at an estimated rate of 14,000 a day. That is practically the entire student population of the University of Victoria diagnosed with a fatal disease every day.

Last summer, I was one of 20 Canadian university students selected to travel to Malawi in southeast Africa to conduct research internships on HIV/AIDS. After nearly two years of studying political science at UVic, the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) International Summer Seminar gave me an amazing opportunity for a "real world" experience, outside of the often sheltered and disheartening world of the ivory towers. The people of Malawi became my teachers, and their struggle with the HIV/AIDS pandemic that was tearing their communities apart became my fixation.

As I stepped off the Kenyan Airways flight that had taken us from Nairobi to Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, I was nervous and overwhelmed. For years I had been dreaming to one day have the opportunity and privilege to go to Africa.

After rounding up our backpacks, our group was welcomed with the sounds of joyous and exuberant singing, clapping and dancing. These were our 20 Malawian counterparts—students at the two local colleges—who would be our research partners, teachers and friends. In a whirl of spirited excitement, we climbed into two large buses and headed to our base camp, a Natural Resource College just outside of Lilongwe.

The drive was surreal, beautiful. Women walked in small groups along the side of dusty roads with baskets and bags perfectly balanced atop their heads, and peacefully sleeping babies tied to their backs. Their colourful cloth skirts, called *chetenje*s, starkly stood out against the bare, red-earth backdrop. My heart felt full and happy and, for a brief moment, I felt content and strangely so at home, even though it was the furthest away from "home" that I had ever been.

The bus was filled with curious chatter, but I sat silent, trying to take in all that was happening around me. The only time I spoke was to ask my counterpart, Esmie, why all those people were gathering on top of a hill just off the road. "Oh, that's a funeral," she said, as our bus flew by the small procession of people in blue, red and yellow clothes, walking solemnly in a straight line. The people in the distance vanished so quickly, and I realized that that moment was my first glimpse into the reality of this AIDS-devastated country. It felt strange to be sitting inside a bus filled with laughter and excitement while looking out the window to see a crowd of people gathering together to mourn. I felt uncomfortable and unsure. Those feelings have never really left me.

Malawi, known as the "warm heart of Africa," is a small, landlocked country nestled between Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia with a population of 12 million. Over 80 per cent of Malawi's population relies on agriculture, mainly maize and tobacco, for its income. According to United Nations statistics, over 70 per cent of the population lives on less than two dollars a day and, therefore, are classified as living below the poverty line. The Malawian government says that 15 to 20 per cent of the population is infected with HIV/AIDS. However, most non-governmental organizations such as the National AIDS Commission disagree, placing the prevalence rate at somewhere between 30 and 40 per cent. UNAIDS estimates that by 2010, there will be over 900,000 children in Malawi who have lost at least one parent to HIV/AIDS—a chilling statistic in a country with only five million children.

Malawi has a history of British colonial rule from the late 19th century until 1964, when it declared its independence under the leadership of Hastings Banda. Banda, the self-declared "president for life," controlled the country through dictatorial rule until 1993 when Bakili Muluzi came to power. On May 18, 2004, only a few weeks before I arrived in Malawi, angry voters took to the streets in protest after the president elected to replace Muluzi was immediately discredited and removed from power under Muluzi's directive. By the time I had arrived, a strange calmness had settled over the country as people got back to the daily successes and struggles of life. Accustomed to political struggle and injustice, the people had come to terms with Bingu wa Mutharika being appointed their new president instead of the person who had received the majority vote. For most people, there were more vital day-to-day struggles to worry about.

Community and dance are a way of life in Malawi. Malawians have a talent and affinity for song and dance, and they use it to educate each other about HIV/AIDS. In two of the schools that I

IEIR HANDS

S BATTLE WITH HIV/AIDS

five hours in a row.

visited while doing my research on HIV/AIDS and primary education, students performed welcoming songs, dances and plays that spoke about HIV, how to prevent the disease and ways of transmitting it. When I asked students how they preferred to learn about HIV/AIDS, the overwhelming response was to learn from their peers through song and dance. Many schools had implemented "AIDS Toto clubs"—groups of students who would gather outside school hours to discuss the issue, brainstorm ways to educate their peers and plan events to collaborate learning with entertainment.

The Malawians that I met were warm to me, despite the obvious tensions that existed based on our differences in skin colour and the connotations that come with being an *azungu*—a "white person" in Chichewa, one of the main languages in Malawi. The Malawian university students with whom we formed partnerships allowed us to see a side of Malawian culture that Western tourists and business people—the usual *azungus* who come to Malawi—most likely would not have.

Our relationships were often filled with cultural misunderstandings, largely rooted in the diversity of our lifestyles. All of the Malawian students were devoutly religious, whereas only two of the Canadian students were. And without fully understanding the history of colonialism and neo-colonialism that exist in Malawi, the Canadian students entered into these partnerships with astounding ignorance. While we were oblivious to the large amount of money we were spending on souvenirs for our family and friends back home, many of the Malawian students were saving everything they could to support their brothers, sisters and parents. For us, we "gave up" summer jobs to partake in this internship. But for them, the small daily per diem given to all of us from WUSC as spending money helped to pay for their next school year or to support their families. After we clued in to the severity of this situation, the Canadian students resolved to ask WUSC to put an additional fee into the internship program for Canadian students that would allow each of our counterparts to have their university fees covered for the next year.

For two weeks, I went to school every day with my host sisters in a small village called Kapalamula in the Dedza region. We would get up in the morning, eat bread and tea, and walk the kilometre or two to the local elementary school—me in Saucony running shoes and my host sisters in bare feet. By the end of the two weeks, I had given my shoes to my sisters, and I was the one in bare feet. They giggled every morning at the sight of an *azungu* treading down the dirt road in bare feet, notebook in hand, an impromptu gathering of 30 children scurrying behind me.

The first morning I arrived, however, I was shocked at the sight of scared children screaming and running at the sight of me. The principal, Mr. Chipala, greeted me and took me to his office to explain the children's reaction. As he sat on a chipped wooden chair surrounded by white-painted, empty walls and shelves scarcely supplied with notebooks, he told the story of three Caucasian missionaries who had come to the school only a few months before. One clever student, he said, had started a rumour that the missionaries were not there to spread the word of God but to suck the blood of African children. And in the eyes of these children, based on the colour of my skin, I was also there to suck their blood. Over the two weeks at the school, I worked hard to prove the rumour wrong and gain back the trust of the students. By the last day, some of the students were comfortable enough to hold my hand or even hug me. To me, that meant more than words can explain.

My time with the students of Dedza Primary made two things clear to me: that these students were incredibly intelligent and mature and that they wanted to know all they could about HIV/AIDS but did not have the resources to do so. When I spoke to their teachers, many were shocked at the United Nations statistics—tens of millions of people with HIV/AIDS was impossible to them. But it is the reality, and the students and teachers deserved to know so that they could protect themselves.

A huge gap exists between the organizations mandated to provide Malawians with vital information about HIV/AIDS and the hundreds of people I met who knew far too little. But one student in particular gave me hope when he raised his hand and asked, in Chichewa, what "the vectors of opportunistic infections like HIV" were. There is a desire for knowledge but a lack of opportunities to receive it.

The time I spent in Malawi was an eye-opening, heart-lifting and exhausting experience, wrapped up in incredible amounts of emotion, desperation and guilt that I had never experienced before. I felt, and still feel, so privileged to have had this opportunity and to have been welcomed into a culture so fully. Malawians and their country are gracious and beautiful, yet there is this terrible disease ripping through them, tearing families and communities apart. I felt desperate because few people that I met talked openly about HIV/AIDS—people blamed death on malaria or tuberculosis, but few ever admitted to have a friend or loved one die of AIDS. I felt helpless but, at the same time, hopeful for a Malawi that would some day be free from this painful and devastating pandemic.

My host mother once asked me what I planned to do about HIV/AIDS and how I was going to stop it. I had no answer; I was speechless.

Today, I think I might tell her that we must all learn together and fight back against this shattering virus that is slowly eating away at the "warm heart of Africa," and the people who call it home.

This article represents my feelings and interpretations of my experience. I can only speak from my limited knowledge, and I struggled to condense many experiences into a short article. I am happy to speak with anyone who wants to further discuss this. Please feel free to e-mail me at: aheaslip@uvic.ca.

June 23

***Mulibwanji* (hello) everyone!**

I am here in Malawi! We arrived safely yesterday after almost three days of travelling! Once we finally arrived in Lilongwe (the capital of Malawi), we were greeted by our 20 Malawian counterparts, who were singing and dancing for our arrival! I know that these six weeks are going to fly by!

Zikomo!
Ashley

(below) Njewa Primary School in Lilongwe.

(above) These Njewa Primary School girls performed a song at the beginning of our visit to the school about how to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS.

June 28

***Moni* ("hello" in Chichewa) everyone!**

Muli bwanji? (how are you?) I have now been in Malawi for six days and it feels like home! This morning we spent three hours at a local primary school, which has 1,817 students and about 15 teachers! One classroom I went into had 150 students, crammed into rows on the floor, sitting in worn clothing, looking so curiously at me. I met one little girl who immediately attached herself to me. I ended up carrying her around for about an hour. She was about five but looked the size of some two-year-olds that I see in Canada. It was really hard to be there and even harder to leave.

I am in awe because the people are so happy and friendly and, at the same time, incredibly poor. Just today, after meeting all of those hundreds of students, only one asked me for money . . . many asked to be my penpal. I am so amazed by their generosity and spirit. It has made me question the North American way of life a lot over the past few days.

I hope you are all well.

Zikomo,
Ashley

July 4

Hi everyone! *Mulibwanji*!

This week is going to be very busy as we are making the final preparations for our homestays that start on July 11. We are also going to be going to a hospital, AIDS care centre, and orphanage this week. It is going to be an emotionally draining week.

Take care! *Zikomo*!
Ashley

Conducting focus group research at Dedza Primary School.

July 21

***Mulibwanji* everyone!!**

Today, I arrived back in Lilongwe after my homestay. I spent 10 days in a small village living with a family, trying my best to blend in!! My research partner and I ended up spending almost every day at Dedza Primary School where we conducted our research and taught students basic classes on HIV/AIDS. It was an amazing experience and enabled us to really get to know the people and their lives. I have never felt so fully immersed in a culture while, at the same time, I felt like a complete stranger. It was emotionally and mentally draining.

Talk to you all soon!

Zikomo,
Ashley

Re-defining the Island lady

B. BRADY PHOTO

Designer Jess Carpio drew on medieval romance and the game of chess for her first collection.

What: Queen for a Knight
When: April 16 @ 9 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Where: Lynda Raino Dance Studio, 715 Yates Street
How Much: $12. Tickets available at the Bedford Hotel, Sitka Surfboards and at the door

by Berkley Brady

Each city has its own fashion style. Calgary is known for cowboy boots, New York for noir and Vancouver for its "hipster cool"—its stylish artists in denim, rolled cuffs, armband tattoos, black T-shirts and boots.

Victoria? Well, most people look like they're really . . . comfortable. Women on campus and downtown strut in their funky but practical shoes, in stretch dresses over velour pants with flowing fabrics tied whimsically around their waists, or sweatshirts, jeans and an ensemble of Lulu. We're Island ladies, and all Jessica Carpio wants to do is add some sleekness to our already functional style and fundraise for the Independent Media Centre.

"I'm making a line of clothing for women who feel strong and sexy and also fun," Carpio says. We're in her studio/home, a green bedroom on the top floor of a character house just off of Cook Street. Carpio sits between the window and the drafting table where she's cutting out designs for her new, and first, collection. The sketches she's made of the 60 pieces hang on the wall beside samples of black, grey, and white fabric and pictures she's torn from fashion magazines.

Her sketches have a modern simplicity that's accentuated by streaks of eccentricity. For example, the entire back of a simple, knee-length black dress is left open. The pants, with their wide legs, show Carpio's fondness for dance culture. There are also drawings of wide skirts embroidered with art-nouveau-inspired tulips and fitted jackets that echo of Chinatown.

"This is a full spring collection," she says with a mixture of seriousness and excitement about her upcoming extravaganza, A Queen for a Knight. The event will feature music, 10 models, jewelry, and hair and makeup by lauded Korean salon Ggamjangmuri. "My muse for the show is the game of chess. The games' colours [black and white] and the motives of the games' characters have driven the collection."

As Carpio sees it, chess is an example of conscious decisions, of strategy and of a player's philosophy on war, fitting interests for a political science graduate. "I want there to be an air of mystery, like chess. I want people to wonder what the next move will be."

She's also captivated by the relationship between the queens and knights of medieval times. "The show is based on romance," she says, taking a sip of tea. "Spring is a romantic time and this is a romantic time in my life. I want to give to the art and dedicate the show to the friend who inspired me to do this in the first place.

That friend is Steve Canning, a UVic student who died mountaineering last spring. "We had one conversation a few summers ago before a bike ride, and I was talking about wanting to make clothes, about my dreams and goals" Carpio remembers. "He asked, 'Have you ever failed at anything you've tried?' I told him no, and he said that I had to do it, that I could do this."

"It's really scary to do what you love. No one else has to even like it, but I love it and I have to do it. I'm creating a line that's alternative and trying to give exposure to the Independent Media Centre, which fosters independence in all media arts. Conscious clothing—that's what I want to make."

BOOK REVIEW | I AM CHARLOTTE SIMMONS

Aging Wolfe takes on youth culture

I Am Charlotte Simmons
By Tom Wolfe
Harper Collins

by David Crow

Tom Wolfe's latest attempt follows the misfortunes of a brainy young girl from a tiny North Carolina town as she plunges headfirst into a top-notch American university. Dupont, a fictionalized Ivy League college, is a powerhouse in practically every sport, boasts the highest SAT average in the nation, teems with manicured lawns and architectural delights and nightly displays of as much booze and sex as spring break in Mazatlan.

Poor, innocent Charlotte Simmons doesn't know what hit her.

The novel does have its drawbacks. Wolfe's characters are hopelessly stereotypical (dumb jocks, "playas," nerdy intellectuals) and never progress much beyond their defining characteristics. Dupont itself is also rather unbelievable. After all, people do spend some time studying at university, and not all girls are mere walking hormones—Wolfe's prose rings with astonishment and outrage at their base behaviour.

In all, *Charlotte Simmons* is a valiant but flawed attempt by a 74-year-old man to understand and illustrate a culture far younger than he is, and one obviously foreign to his own sensibilities.

The majority of the novel is spent inside the head of its naïve protagonist, investigating her considerable insecurities—think *She's Come Undone* by Wally Lamb. In a favourite technique of his, Wolfe constructs much of the dialogue in argot—in this case, Simmons' hillbilly accent and the dumbed-down Paris Hilton-esque vocabulary of youth, which he labels "Fuck Patois."

But again, the picture he paints is not perfect, and a few of his terms miss the mark: a "skank," as we all know, is not an unpopular, unattractive girl with pimples, even though Wolfe contends otherwise. Also, his incessant mention of bare midriffs and ultra-low-riding jeans can't help but smack of lechery.

Yet, despite the shortcomings of *Charlotte Simmons*, Wolfe is a master of vibrant detail, and here he once again produces. The unfolding plot is unarguably entertaining, and one can't help but be drawn in by the hapless protagonist and wince at the painful bumps in her path. *Charlotte Simmons* won't set the world on fire, but it tells a good tale.

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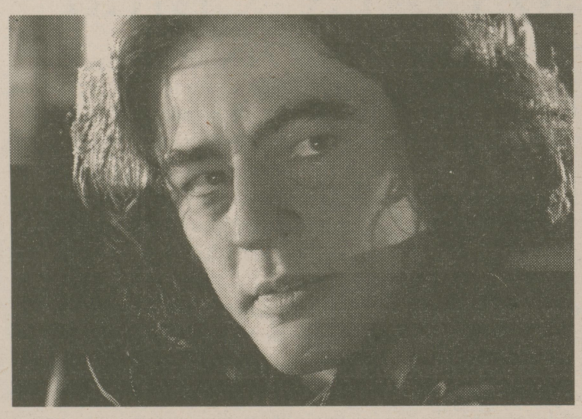
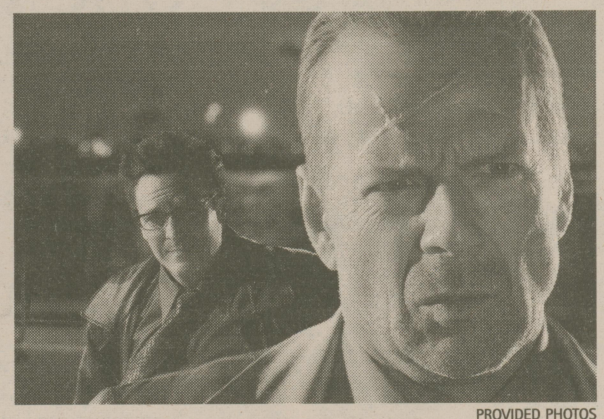
MOVIE REVIEW | SIN CITY

Shadow, smoke and T&A

by *Martlet* Staff

Five ravenous nerds and one nouveau-noir epic. This review's so crazy, you'll want to take it out into the woods and shoot it.





PROVIDED PHOTOS

Clockwise from top left: Clive Owen as Dwight, Carla Gugino as Lucille, Mickey Rourke as Marv, Bruce Willis as Hartigan, Michael Madsen as Bob and Benicio Del Toro as Jackie Boy.

STEPHANIE

I'm well aware that *Sin City*'s genesis is the male-dominated realm of the comic book, being written and co-directed by Frank Miller. Perhaps that's why it resembles a comic geek's super-mega wet dream. Every woman is beautiful, vulnerable and half naked, talking tough but ultimately in need of rescue.

Even the whores, my motivation to see the soulless style-fest I knew would be a Rodriguez/Miller/Tarantino production, proved wanting. Supposedly controlling Old Town, deep in the bowels of Basin City, they walk the streets fully armed and dangerous: working girls who coyly serve and protect.

But instead of making them powerful, the camera reduces them to pretty girls in their underwear, firing hyper-phallic pistols with poor aim. Their ringleader snarls appreciatively after being backhanded by her "man," they rely on one rogue (male) criminal to save their shaky truce with the outside world, and the feud between progressive female roles and Hollywood rages on.

STEVE

Sin City is not a subtle movie.

Like one of its heroes, Marv (Mickey Rourke), it revels in violence. And there is a lot of violence: gunfights, murders, kidnappings and more than a few dismembered penises. It's almost the same amount of violence as the comic books, and it retains the theme of giving all you can to keep watching out for the people you care for.

This is probably the best movie adaptation of any comic book series, due both to the episodic format of the source and the co-direction by Frank Miller, author of the *Sin City* comic books. Some of the details are lost; some are changed in order to set the movie deeper into the archetypical noir era of big cars and dark alleys.

Despite some minor changes and some ridiculous acting, *Sin City* still remains faithful to its source material and just as mindlessly fun.

SACHA

Carla Gugino's shadow-striped naked body holds a special place in my mind, buried deep like a slug from a .45. That's partly because I'm a pervert and partly because *Sin City*, like *Kill Bill Vol. 1*, is a visionary opus of style-over-substance filmmaking.

The first of *Sin City*'s nouveau-noir tales, about a pug-fugly vigilante named Marv, offers the film's greatest 30-odd minutes. Followed by a bloody love story starring Clive Owen and Rosario Dawson and a hideous revenge tale starring Bruce Willis (with convincing fake hair) and Jessica Alba, *Sin City* winds down from startling greatness to laudable goodness. It's one of the most violent and sexist American films I've seen in years, and it's also among the three greatest comic book adaptations of all time.

Well played, Tinsel Town. Well played.

GRAHAM

The *Sin City* comics are mostly black and white; colour is used selectively for emphasis (e.g. the Yellow Bastard). But Rodriguez plays with colour much more than Miller, and the results are fantastic. A pair of shoes, a tattoo, a police car's lights—all these little splashes of colour here and there add so much to the movie and make it a truly visual feast. Rodriguez even brings up barely noticeable colour in entire scenes only to use it to his advantage when he plunges back into the blacks and whites that make Basin City such a bleak place. Sporting the credit of "Guest Director," Tarantino's contribution to the film is a memorable but minimal scene, and Miller was a constant presence on set, earning him the co-direction credit, but really this is Robert Rodriguez's finest hour, and well worth seeing. Besides, as well as being amazing to look at, it's also totally badass.

FORD

The ambience of *Sin City* is like many pulp novels of the 1950s, and as such almost every male character sounds like he's just smoked a carton of Marlboros before each take. Who has the smokiest voice, though? Surely, Marv, whose voice is more grating than sandpaper, is the burliest character of the entire movie. But Hartigan's (Bruce Willis) voice is so low and raspy that he sounds more like a Hell's Angel then a retired police detective. Jackie Boy (Benicio del Toro) also deserves mention—his speech is closer to that of a smoke inhalation victim. As you can see, every major male character in *Sin City* sounds like he's just finished gargling sulphuric acid, and while it's typical of the '50s detective style portrayed in the movie, they all start to sound the same after two gravelly hours.

Now dig up your shiniest magnum. This review isn't going to shoot itself.

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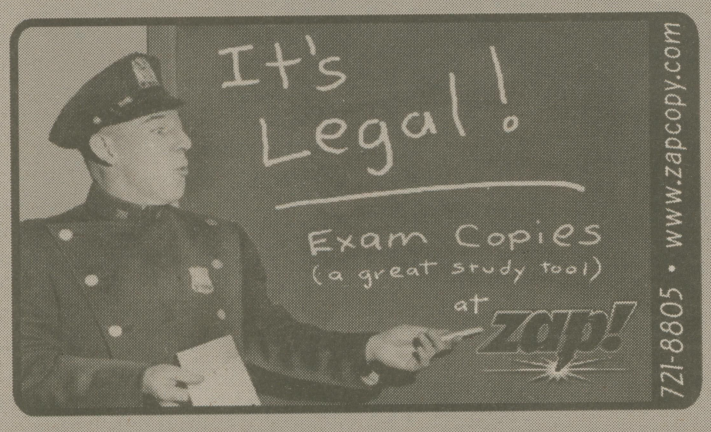

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Muranetz paints an intimate and varied portrait of China with vivid photos and revealing stories.
AMI MURANETZ PHOTO

One woman's 'China Experience'

What: *The China Experience*, photography and writing by Ami Muranetz
When: Opening April 9 @ 7 p.m., until April 18
Where: fifty fifty arts collective, 2516 Douglas St.
How Much: Free

by Megan Drysdale

"Woke up at 4 a.m. to the sound of gongs ringing . . . Walking towards the monastery, I could hear the distant chanting of morning prayers . . . Leaning against the terrace, I was contented in watching the morning rise and fall, listening to the bells chime in harmony with the singing of the monks."

This is an excerpt of Ami Muranetz's journal, part of *The China Experience*, her collection of photographs, journal entries and drawings from a year of teaching overseas.

"I was dissatisfied with life and needed a shock to the system," says Muranetz of deciding to teach English in China. And she did get a shock: she moved to Taiyuan, a city of four million people and air so polluted you couldn't see the sky. "It was a huge city, and dreary. But the people were so happy." After a year in Taiyuan, she wasn't ready to come back to Canada but needed to leave the city after developing respiratory problems. She travelled to Quanzhou, a place she describes as a cross between Mexico, Hawaii and Victoria.

A journal and her camera documented her time in both places, both for memories and as a constant companion. "I started keeping the journals because you're by yourself most of the time. I was excluded a little bit—there weren't a lot of other women travelling that I met."

The photographs are vibrant and rich, mostly of architecture, nature and the people.

A favourite of Muranetz's is of a street beggar writing what may be his life story on the sidewalk in chalk. "They were inspired by the positive aspects of the culture and not the [North American] preconceived notions. The photos are from sights that made you stop and feel alive."

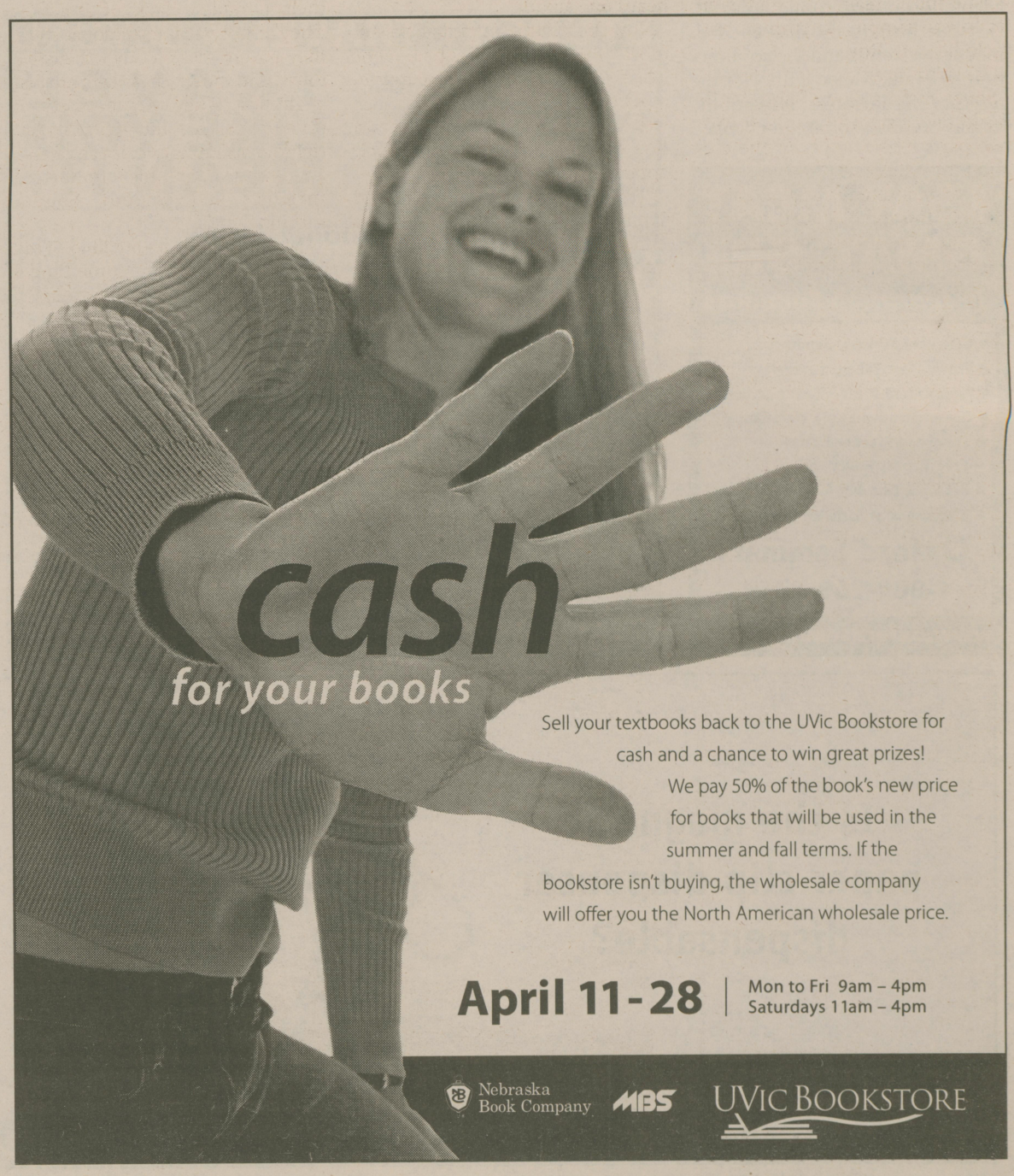
The journals are equally appealing—pen and ink sketches of the sights she came across, descriptions of remarkable experiences, as well as the internal thoughts of a solo traveller encountering loneliness and culture shock.

"Art has always been in my life. There's never been a question of it. I've always just done it. But when I went to China, I had the time to get into it. I realized how important art was in my life."

After a year of teaching in Taiyuan and travelling around Quanzhou, Muranetz returned to Victoria with pictures and journals that began to draw attention.

She saw a friend's show at the fifty fifty arts collective and decided to submit her work. The gallery accepted, giving Muranetz not only the space to display her works but the freedom to curate the show herself. She applauds the collective for giving young artists a place to showcase their work.

"A friend and I were watching a ceremony of Buddhist monks. And we thought it was this holy, mystical event—until one of the monks pulled out a cell phone from his robes and started text messaging. I suppose no matter how pious you are, you're still human."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Jon and Roy's sounds of summer

Who: Jon and Roy
When: Saturday, April 9 @ 9 p.m.
Where: Steamers Pub, 570 Yates
How Much: $5

by Chris Devauld

There's a particular style of music that sounds like an island. It turns your mind into a slow-motion summer haze, echoes the calm sound of the beach and creates a relaxed surfing vibe.

You can try to classify the musical genre of Victoria-based duo Jon and Roy, but their music is hard to describe. As percussionist Roy Vizer admits, the music is "a blend of folk, reggae and hip-hop with an island tinge."

An "island tinge" takes different musical genres, blends them together and then throws in a distinct local sound.

The song "Cadboro Bay" stays true to this style. Its folky reggae sound is as refreshing as the feeling you get while sitting back on Cadboro Bay's painted logs, with a cool breeze and a warm sun.

And for those UVic students who hate waking up hungover to their violent alarm clocks, "First Thing in the Mornin'" gently awakens the senses. The song channels the sound of Sublime's unique guitar and combines it with tropical island percussion. The result: you feel like you are in a hammock, with a beach to the left and a drink to the right.

"The music really just stands on its own: simple, rhythmic and melodic," says Roy.

"It's minimized."

Songs such as "Focus" and "Sittin' Back" take a sunny day, mix it with two parts music and pour the creation into your ear.

It's easy listening, and it's easily likeable. Jon and Roy are the kind of act you have to see to appreciate. Their music is hard to describe yet easy to observe.

Hard to be human

The Perishers' Ola Kluft fends off emo angst with a dose of humility

Who: The Perishers, with Sarah McLachlan
When: April 12 and 13 @ 7:30 p.m.
Where: Save-On-Foods Memorial Arena
How Much: $59.50

by Sacha Narine

ELIN BERGE PHOTO

From left: Pehr Åström, Martin Gustafson, Thomas Hedlund and Ola Kluft.

Two things will happen on April 12. The Perishers will play their first of two shows at Save-On-Foods Memorial Arena with Sarah McLachlan, and their slow, short, sweet album *Let There Be Morning* will finally receive a North American release.

"This tour is one of the best things that's ever happened to me," says singer/songwriter Ola Kluft. "I really look forward to seeing Canada and the U.S., meeting nice people (I hope) and playing in front of big crowds."

On the phone from Umeå, Sweden, Kluft battles the English language. His singing English is perfect, down to the last diphthong, but on the phone he struggles to find the right words. He's excited about the tour, but you wouldn't know it by the sound of his voice—warm yet subdued throughout, even when talking about family, his joie de vivre.

"My sister has a new kid, which is really, really fun," he says. "She's got two kids, and seeing them grow up…that's really great."

I ask Kluft about having kids of his own.

"I have to meet the right girl first," he says, half joking. "Maybe some day."

Sarah McLachlan has had nearly two years to find and listen to *Let There Be Morning*, but she's just now called on the Perishers to support her on a 32-show tour through Canada and the U.S.

"She's really talented," Kluft says of McLachlan, confessing he's only heard one album.

Now 26, Kluft admits that he still mostly listens to records he bought when he was 19. Modern music, apart from the work of singer/songwriters like Rufus Wainwright and Ron Sexsmith, doesn't hold much appeal.

"I'm not really into nu-metal, and I'm not so into the bubblegum pop either," he explains. "I don't really know what I am into."

I ask Kluft about emo, and he says, "Never heard of it." I explain that it's full of emotional lyrics and weepy melodies.

"That sounds like us," he says with a laugh.

Let There Be Morning heralds some of the most earthy, modest songwriting in modern music. Channelling inspiration from Leonard Cohen and Neil Young, Kluft pens all his lyrics in English, which "makes it easier, but also harder, because I think in Swedish, of course," he says.

"The Swedish language is rougher—it's more pointy. It's harder to rhyme and harder to make it flow," Kluft explains. Even in English, it can take him months or even years to find the right lyrics for a song.

The great joy of the Perishers is their complete lack of urgency. They're not yet international stars, they haven't played any exhaustive tours, and the press junkets are just beginning. They've got plenty of time to burn out and get bitter, but right now Kluft is as calm as can be, an avatar for his unhurried melodies and smooth, Sunday morning tenor.

"Many of the lyrics are kind of sad . . . but hopeful at the same time. I hope they can bring some strength," says Kluft. "It's kind of hard to be human these days. People need to hear that they're not alone."

He hums a quiet thinking noise then adds, "That's pretentious," with a self-deprecating laugh.

The Perishers' sound is markedly modern, yet classic in its puzzle-piece simplicity. Calling it conventional is an undeserved insult to the album's humble euphony.

"It would have been easy for us to borrow Coldplay's sound—and that probably would have helped us sell more records—but it's not fun," says Kluft. "It's more interesting to try to develop something unique."

Songs like "My Heart" and "Nothing Like You and I" radiate sincerity.

"Love songs are hard because there's so many of them," he says. "All people have been in love . . . and unhappily in love."

As a child, Kluft dreamt of being a pro soccer player. "That was my biggest dream as a kid, but I suck at it," he admits. He may never go toe-to-toe with Beckham, but Kluft is prepared to put down his guitar and try other things, eventually.

"I'd one day like to work with less fortunate people," he says, again humming into the phone, searching for the right word. It comes back to him, and Kluft laughs quietly.

"That sounds pretentious too."

warning

This is the last issue of the Martlet to be printed this year.
Disappointed you missed out on volunteering? Do not fret; we'll be around once a month over the summer and then back in full swing again come September.

Have a wonderful summer!

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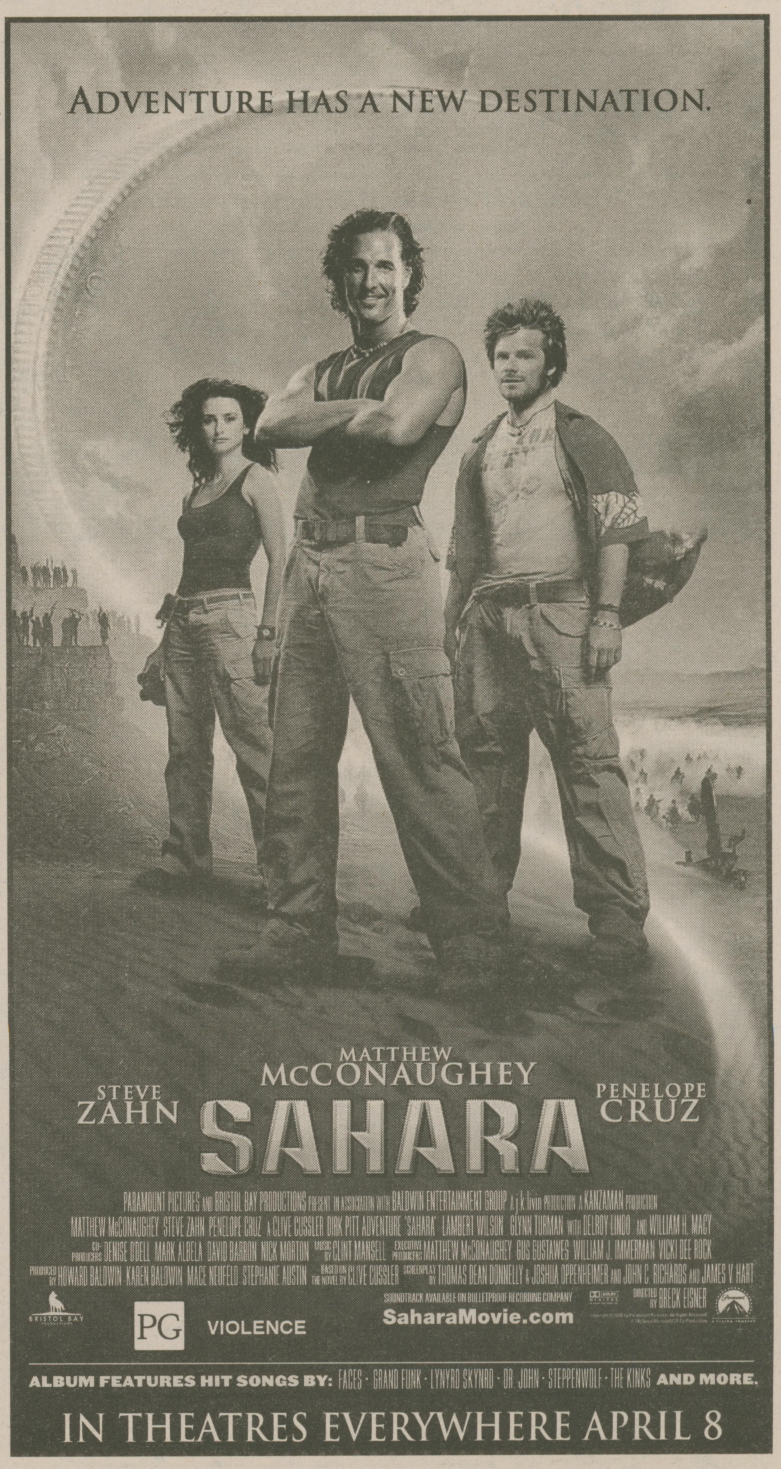
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PROVIDED PHOTOS

From left: Tara Hardy, Lane Stroud, Katinka Kraft, Ivan E. Coyote and Amy Mahoney of Seattle's Oratrix Productions.

Effecting change with language art

All-girl, all-queer poets tout spoken word as a tool for change

What: Oratrix Productions' "Write Off Tour"
Where: Solstice Café, 529 Pandora
When: April 21, doors at 7:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m.
How Much: $5-$8 (sliding scale)

by Sarah Ivens

Oratrix Productions, the all-girl, all-queer poets troupe, will be coming to Victoria on April 21 as a part of their "Write Off Tour."

Artists Ivan E. Coyote, SoulChilde, Tara Hardy, Lane Stroud, Katinka Kraft and Amy Mahoney will be joined by locals glenna and Lisa b.

They're coming with "a night of outrageous, fun, thought-provoking, hilarious, brilliant storytelling and high intensity, adrenaline-fuelled verbal acrobatics," says Kraft.

The tour is "a collection of artists who might have been overlooked by the mainstream. But by sharing our lives and work, we create an invaluable record of marginalized history. I believe stories untold are a cemetery of lost wisdom."

"Words have given me a vehicle to navigate through the complexities of my identity as a German-American, queer, drag king, femme, bilingual bi-dyke," says Kraft.

Hardy also believes in the power of words.

"Art will be at the centre of the next social movement in this country, and spoken word will be part of that upheaval," she says.

To the people who might not believe that spoken word is poetry, she points out that hybrid art forms often face obstacles in being recognized. "Look at jazz, rock, hip hop. Spoken word, specifically—owing a debt to, among other things, hip hop and punk rock—is a marriage of poetry, theatre, music and narrative."

People should expect to be inspired, entertained, enlightened, enthralled and pulled into connection with the artists. Mahoney says that this is what drives people to change. "You feel suddenly responsible, in the best kind of way, for creating and changing the world around you."

"We hope to encourage other people who are overlooked by traditional institutions to write about their lives, experiences, dreams and histories," says Kraft. "In short, our mission is to 'write and tell' and to encourage others to write and tell."

Stroud sees the potential power within words too. "I had childhood aspirations of effecting social change. I think I've always known it was what I was going to do with my life. Recently through spoken word, I learned how I was going to do that."

So come on out for a night of watching people wield language as a tool of change, and be prepared for a little change within yourself.

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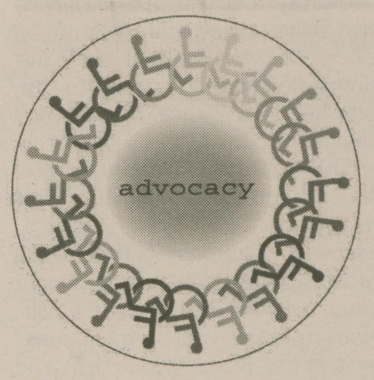

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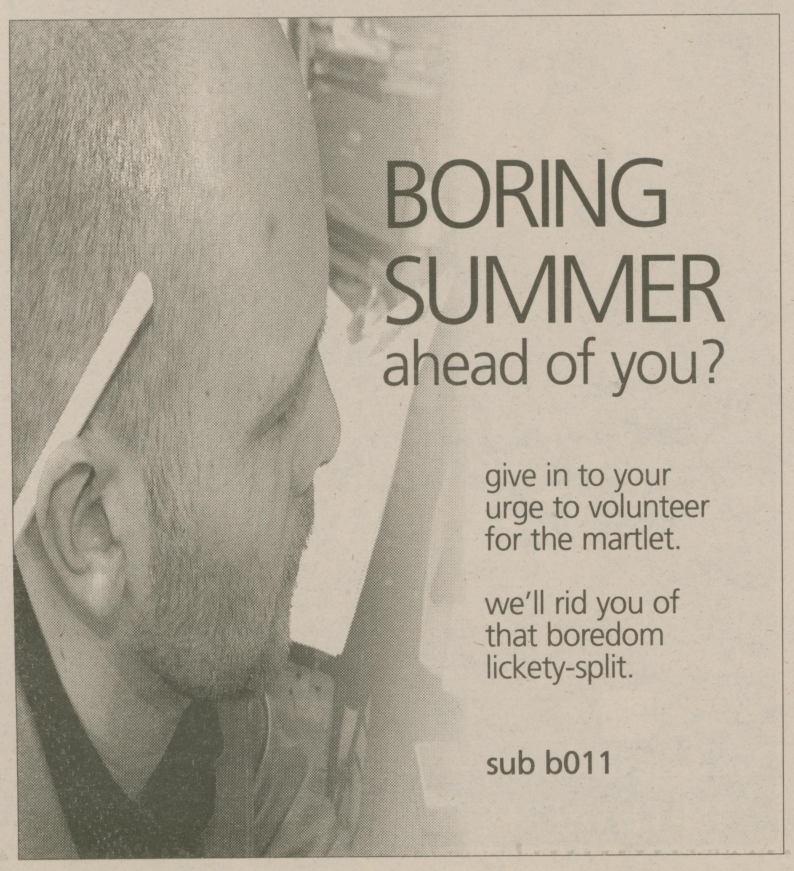

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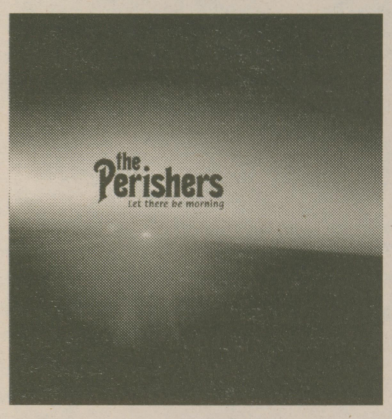


The Perishers
Let There Be Morning
Nettwerk

Try not to love the Perishers. I dare you.

A four-piece from Umeå, Sweden, the Perishers channel modern acts like Wilco and old-fashioned singer/songwriters like Neil Young.

If there's a beating heart in your chest, *Let There Be Morning* will do things to you that most music can't. Like a down-to-Earth fusion of the softer tracks on Death Cab's *Transatlanticism* and Bright Eyes' *I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning* (sans the postmodern angst), the Perishers second album (released in the their native Sweden in late 2003), *Let There Be Morning* is finally receiving a North American release, and it's destined to be recognized as one of the year's most important.

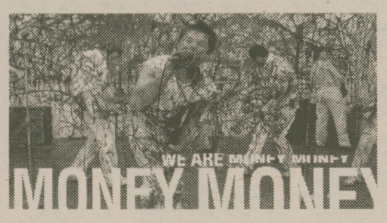
"Weekends" startles with shockingly universal lyrics. No drama, no bitterness, no desperation—just truth.

Ola Kluft sings in a wistful tenor, "On the weekend, we try to get our share / Of excitement and of fresh air / Trying to forget who we're gonna be / When the alarm rings / On Monday morning."

There's not a track to complain about. "A Reminder" repeats its benevolent message with reassuring confidence. "My Heart" evades effusion and offers up a sincere plea for love. "Nothing Like You and I" evokes the happiest moments of a new romance, the fleeting euphoria of falling in love.

"It's kind of hard to be human, these days," said Kluft in a recent interview (see page 17). *Let There Be Morning* gathers up the little wonders, the pedestrian miracles of beauty and sadness in an often stifling urban landscape, and presents them as one of the most affecting records in years.

—Sacha Narine



Money Money
We Are Money Money
Universal

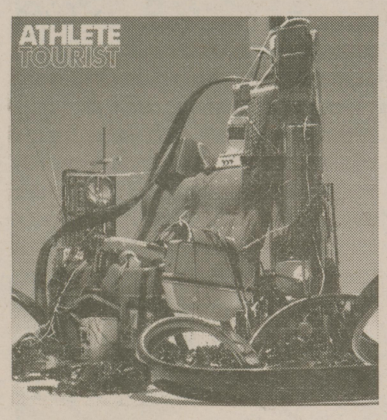
Jeremy Gabriel used to be a minister. Now he plays guitar for a band that sounds like gutter punk (The Black Halos), fake gutter punk (The Distillers), and a whole lot of 'tude mashed together like so many delicious yams.

The disc opens with "Judy," a fierce and borderline offensive tune with the kind of beat-driven staccato chorus I've come to expect from cleaner bands like AFI and the Black Maria. Money Money currently has more to offer than either of those bands, but their highly touted "cred" is conspicuous, to say the least. Singer Ryan Kennedy likes his rock "with a side of style."

Even so, Kennedy's shredded vocals, fleeting as they may be (hello vocal chord surgery), deliver a satisfying dose of gutteral grit. Less visceral tunes like "Bend and Break" and "Catwalk" prove that Money Money have the range to lure shy emo kids and obnoxious rock rats alike.

For a bittersweet taste of revamped gutter rock, try Money Money—a band so nice they named it twice.

—Sacha Narine



Athlete
Tourist
Capitol

Awkwardly described by their record label as "Coldplay-esque," Athlete's accomplished, simple second album, *Tourist*, does more for modern music than abuse falsetto and open its eyes too wide.

A slow, plodding record throughout, the first two tracks represent the album's highest achievement—eight and a half minutes of uncompromisingly pleasant music. Although some lyrics verge on platitude (as in the repetition of "Just wanna be with you, my baby" on the album's title track), the main appeal remains—soothing melodies that evoke emotion without even trying.

A four-piece from Deptford, England, Athlete jumps from tiny pub shows to massive outdoor festivals effortlessly. Their sound serves up enough resonance and openness, as on the first single, "Wires," to reverberate off the walls of a rundown local or blanket a field of beer-fuelled fans with equal clarity and affect.

At least I assume it does. *Tourist*'s warm, torpid consistency promises as much.

—Sacha Narine

Beck
Guero
Interscope

"E-Pro," *Guero*'s first track, digs in deep—it's the kind of tune you'll be humming in the shower for weeks without even realizing it.

For Beck fans, it's been an excruciating wait since 2002's *Sea Change*. Luckily for us, *Guero* is Beck's strongest album since his remarkable 1996 breakthrough, *Odelay*. Rock, synth and hip hop interplay in a loosely structured and often whimsical fashion. White-boy rapping and lazy rock-outs lean across smooth, steady beats and—*Guero*'s new flavour—Latin rhymes, exemplified by the attractive yet unremarkable "Qué Onda Guero." But it all comes together.

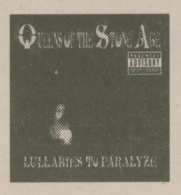
"Girl" is *Guero*'s first pure Beck masterpiece, both reminiscent of older singles like "Devil's Haircut" and heralding a shift towards more emotive melodies.

Guero offers more than enough danceable beats, fluid melodies and innovation to appease Beck aficionados and draw plenty of fresh blood into the fold.

—Sacha Narine

Queens of the Stone Age
Lullabies to Paralyze
Interscope

If you're not already down with Queens of the Stone Age, you probably never will be. Their dark and barren desert rock sound is something of an acquired taste. The Queens of the Stone Age have released their fourth album, *Lullabies to Paralyze*, and thus continue their legacy of rock that can be enjoyed on acid trips and long car rides alike.



The album opens like a storybook, both literally and musically. Cracking the CD open is like delving into a hardcover, old English fiction that creeps into haunting imagery of twisted childish tales. The evocatively deep voice of Mark Lanegan, over the plucking guitar of "This Lullaby," the album's first track, tells a chilling tale of love and exile—a perfect introduction to the dark and sexy world of QOTSA.

"Someone's In the Wolf" is a stone-metal anthem that blasts into a fury of exacerbating guitar. The fading, echoic drawl of Josh Homme's lyrics are a chilling addition to the song.

With the Queens, you have your mix of hard, fast, heavy, dirty rock combined with mysterious imagery. Mentioning the album's musical cameos is useless because they're all small and insignificant. The only thing missing from *Lullabies to Paralyze* is the killer voice of former bassist Nick Olivieri, who is rumoured to want to come back to the band.

QOTSA are one of those bands that you don't want other people to like because you're afraid they'll get too big and make an unplugged album, or something equally awful.

But this is their fourth album, and they're still in the middle of the desert, living off nicotine and drowning in their own sorrowful joy.

—Matthew Wilson

The Mars Volta
Frances The Mute
Universal

A review of *Frances The Mute* in 125 words or less? Well, here's a quicky then. I could go on about the killer guitar riffs—operative word here: killer—or the passionate, reverberant vocals. Maybe about how they have a certain Radiohead feel with their instrumental style—one that's slightly mystic: bells ringing, jazz riffs, strangely voiced monologues. The problem is, the Mars Volta is such a unique band, you're going to either love them or hate them no matter what any review says.

So, if you love and appreciate music that combines a variety of genres and sounds into one inventive style, *Frances The Mute* is one for the CD rack.

—Rebecca Peric

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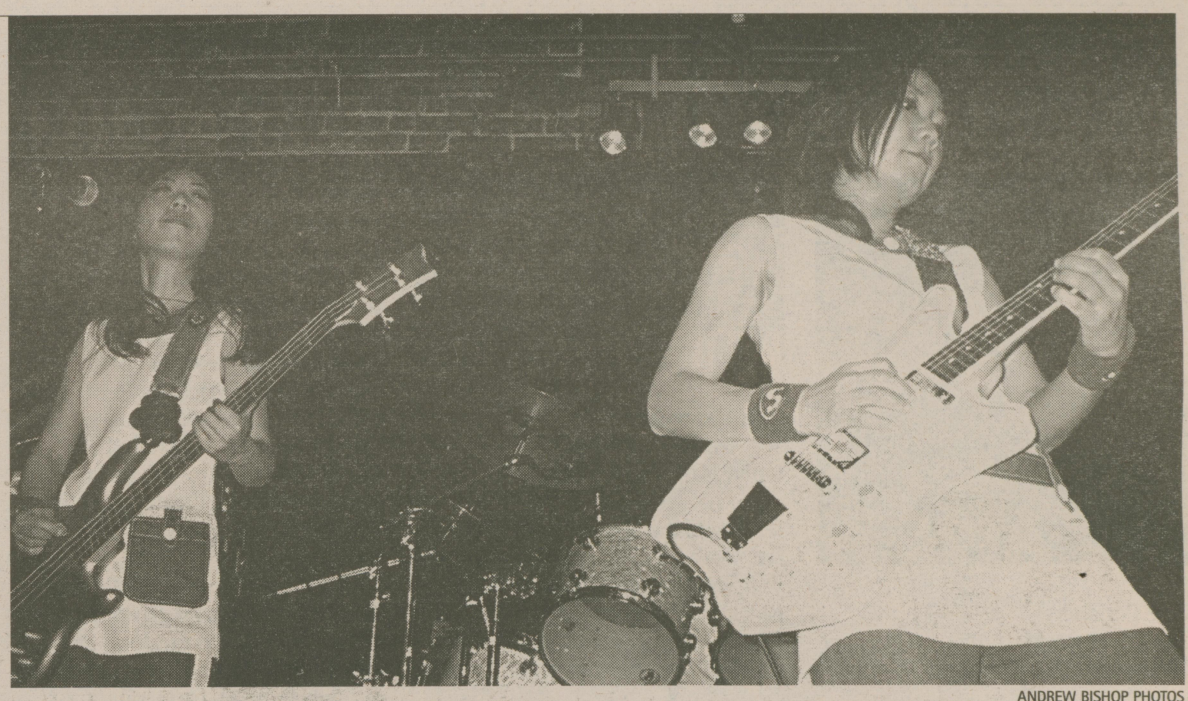
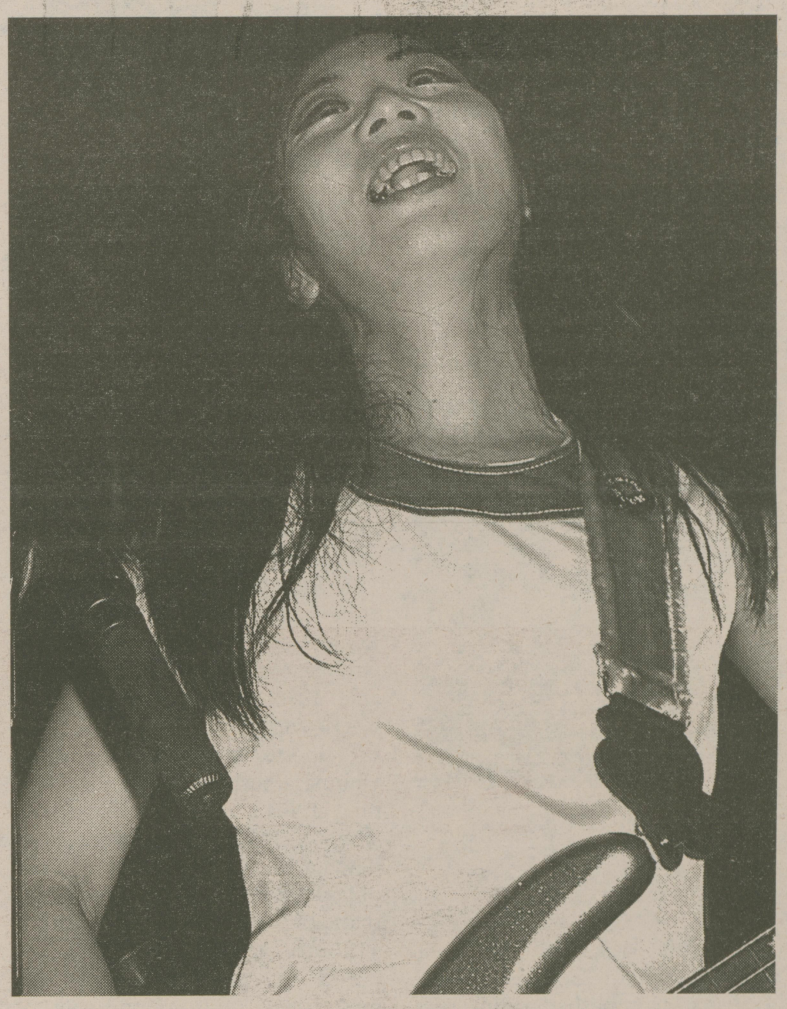


ANDREW BISHOP PHOTOS

Bassist Atsuko Yamano and singer/guitarist Naoko Yamano in matching mao-suits.

Japanese power-pop shivs Victoria fans

SHOW REVIEW
SHONEN KNIFE @ LUCKY BAR, APRIL 2



Atsuko looking as happy as a clam that's just taken way too much ecstasy and been dropped off at a New Year's rave.

by Andrew Bishop

Imagine the Ramones under the influence of anime and a keen fashion sense and you'll come close to Shonen Knife, the legendary all-girl Japanese pop-punk trio who wowed a sold-out audience at Lucky Bar on Saturday.

Shonen Knife's infectious choruses, intelligent and often ironic (English) lyrics, and cheerful, almost cutesy, stage presence showed why they've made fans of acts from Nirvana to Sonic Youth in their more than 20 years as a band.

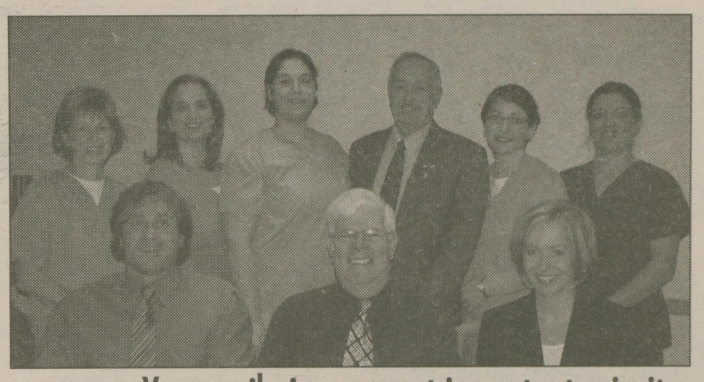
Formed in Osaka in 1981, they were here in Victoria as the last stop on their North American tour to promote their new album *Genki Shock* (a play on the Japanese "Genki" which means both "cheerful" and "electric"). They sported matching mao-suits that bassist Atsuko Yamano designed and made by hand.

Shonen Knife's transformation from '80s cult hit to massive presence in the North American punk scene occurred after touring in the opening slot of Nirvana's 1991 U.K. tour leading up to the release of their breakthrough album, *Nevermind*. Kurt Cobain asked them to join the tour after seeing a show of theirs in L.A. and being "transformed into a hysterical nine-year-old girl at a Beatles concert."

Clearly, the appeal hasn't left them. Mike Allison, an audience member and fourth-year UVic student who leaves for Japan to teach English next week, employed the catch phrase of the band, "Let's Knife," saying he would "Knife" any day with Ettchan, their young drummer.

If we only knew what that means.

TODAY'S DENTAL CENTRE



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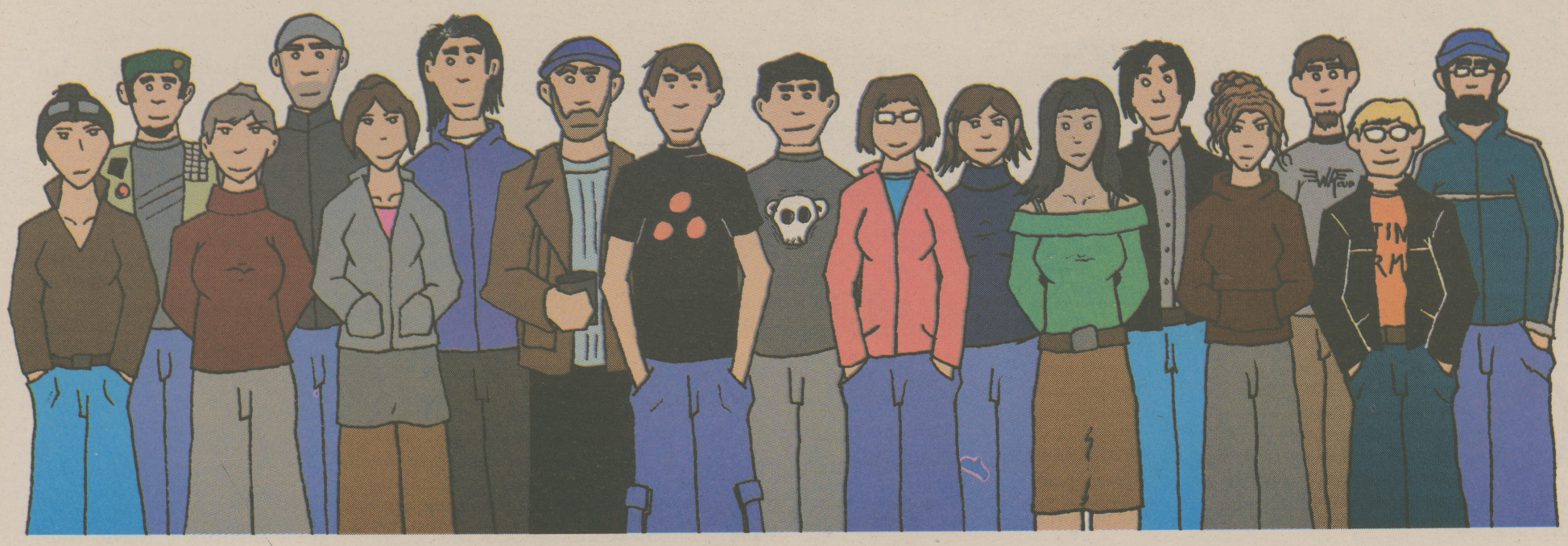

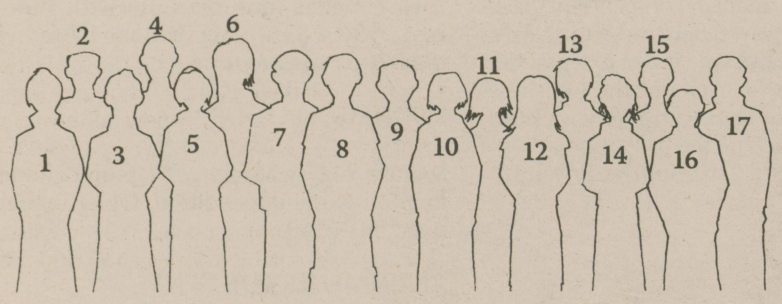

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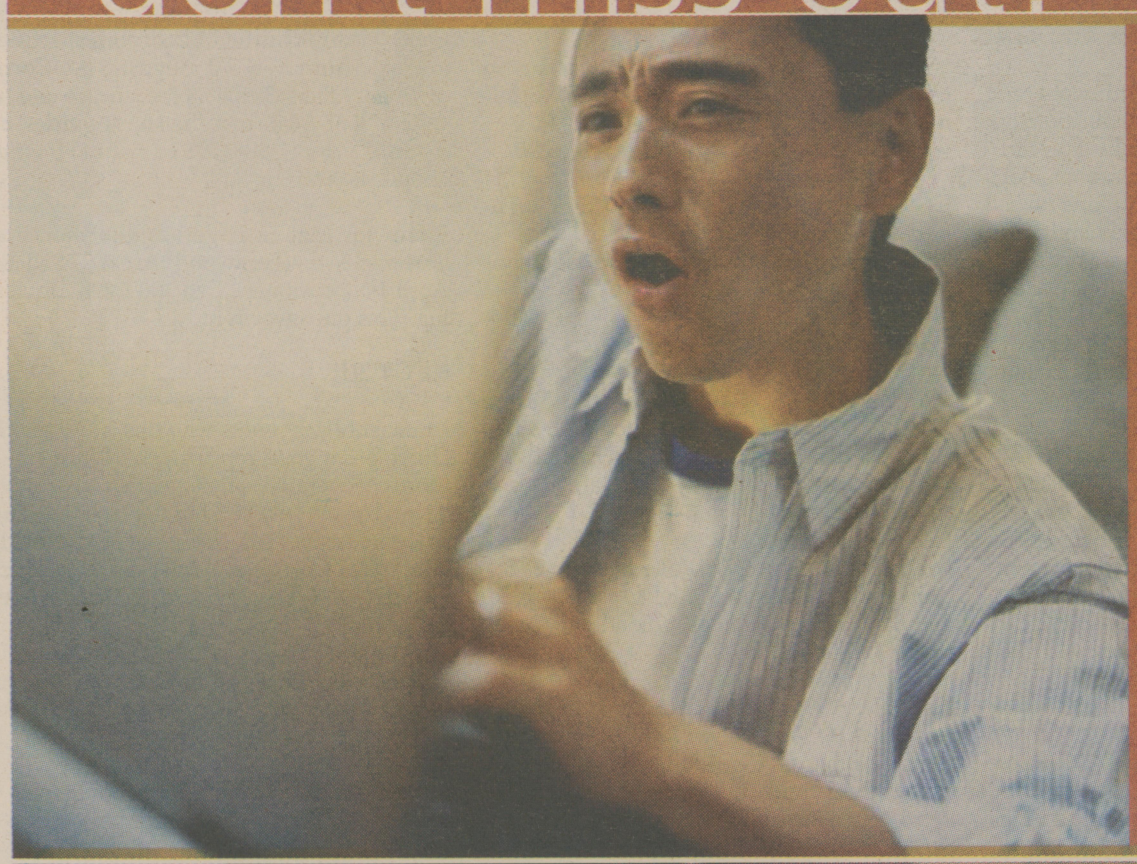

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Whitecaps kick one past UVic, 1–0

Vancouver Whitecaps midfielder/forward Martin Nash takes a corner during Saturday night's game against the Vikes. While most of the game was played in the Vikes' end, strong defence and goalkeeping gave the Whitecaps the edge.

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

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The BC Cancer Agency is looking for volunteers who are able to contribute 100 hours over the summer months. Volunteers who are interested in making a contribution in a rewarding environment, can e-mail jhurtig@bccancer.bc.ca or call 519-5500 ext 3747 for more information. Volunteer positions are available in the TLC Cafe, Pebbles Gift Shop and in patient support areas.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tre Arrow Benefit Show. April 8 @ Solstice-Cafe, 6-10 p.m.Music and spoken word with. Sarah Metzner, Glenna G., Ory Norman, Neil Conway, Oliver Swain, and Shayne avec i-grec. by donation, raffle with great prizes!

Make an informed decision this referendum! Learn about BC-STV, hear all sides of the debate, and participate in a mock election! Moderator Susan Elrington (CBC Radio One), mock election by Eli Walker and Jennie Milligan (UVic), explanation by Wendy Bergerud (Citizens' Assembly), panellists Lauren Dobell (Canadian Unity Council), Shoni Field (Citizens' Assembly), and Bob Plecas (Know-STV). Thursday, April 7, 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Downtown Community Activity Centre on 755 Pandora Ave. For more information, e-mail clei@uvic.ca.

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muuaahhhaaa guess who this is? I hope the Dutchie is a good replacement, I heard he is more co-operative when it comes to drinking ;) I am back in "my LC", but the truth is it's not anymore, cause MY LC is far away on the other side of an ocean...I miss you sooo much! Dont forget to keep me updated on the latest gossip ;) Love, K.

Yo Heather! Whats up at CS? Who are you singing to now? Do you miss me ? ;) hehe...say "hi" to everyone! Hugs, tha crazy German ;)

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-Whatsherface.

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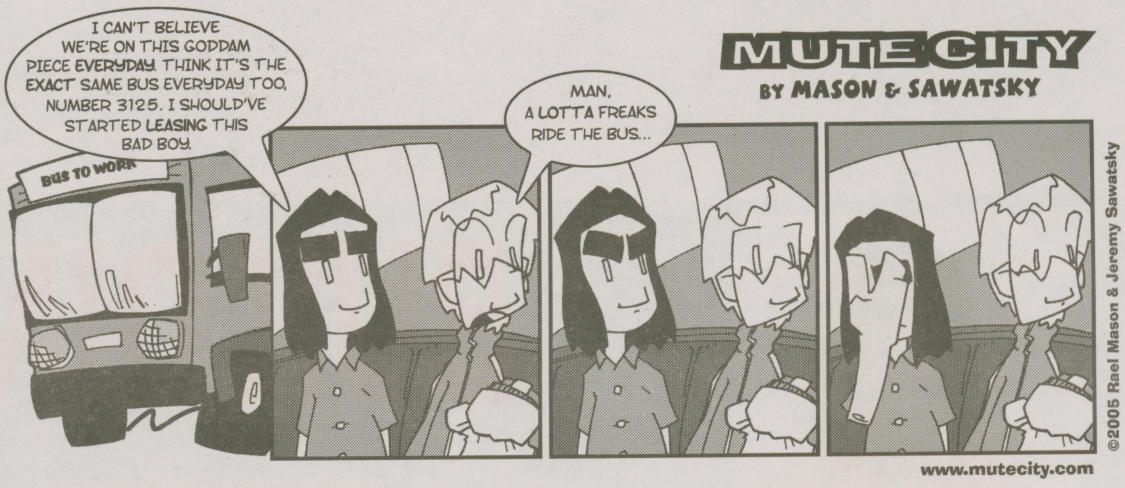
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE ON THIS GODDAM PIECE EVERYDAY. THINK IT'S THE EXACT SAME BUS EVERYDAY TOO. NUMBER 3125. I SHOULD'VE STARTED LEASING THIS BAD BOY.
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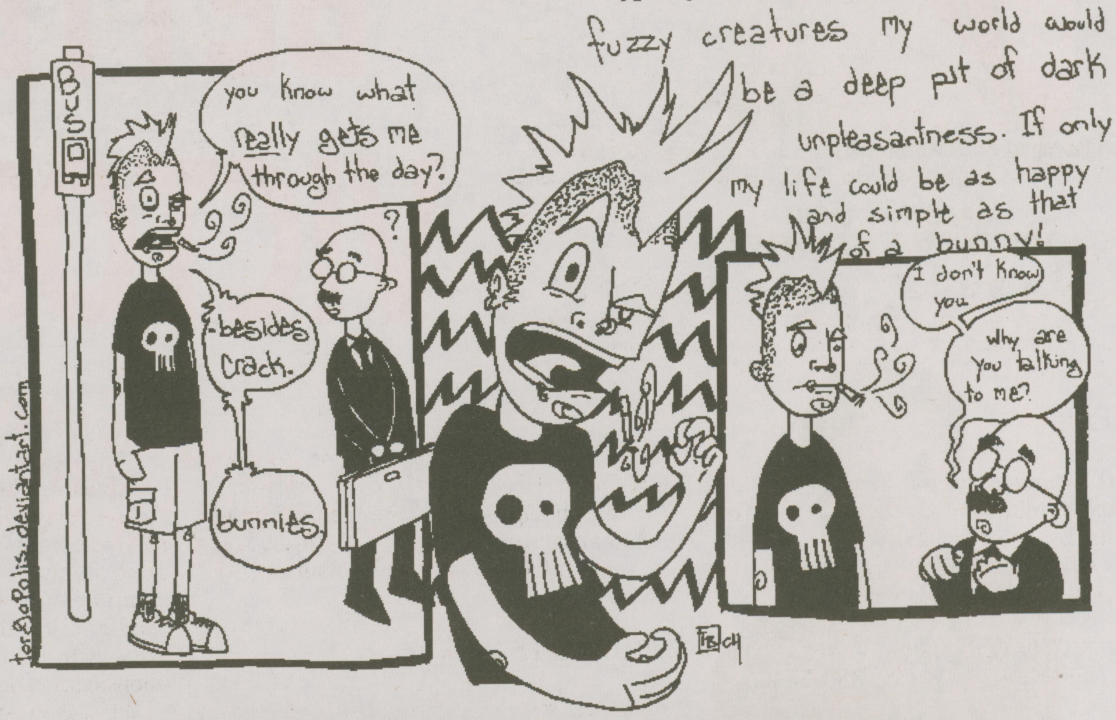
BUS STOP
you know what really gets me through the day?
besides crack.
bunnies.
Without those mindless, cute, fuzzy creatures my world would be a deep pit of dark unpleasantness. If only my life could be as happy and simple as that of a bunny!
I don't know you.
why are you talking to me?
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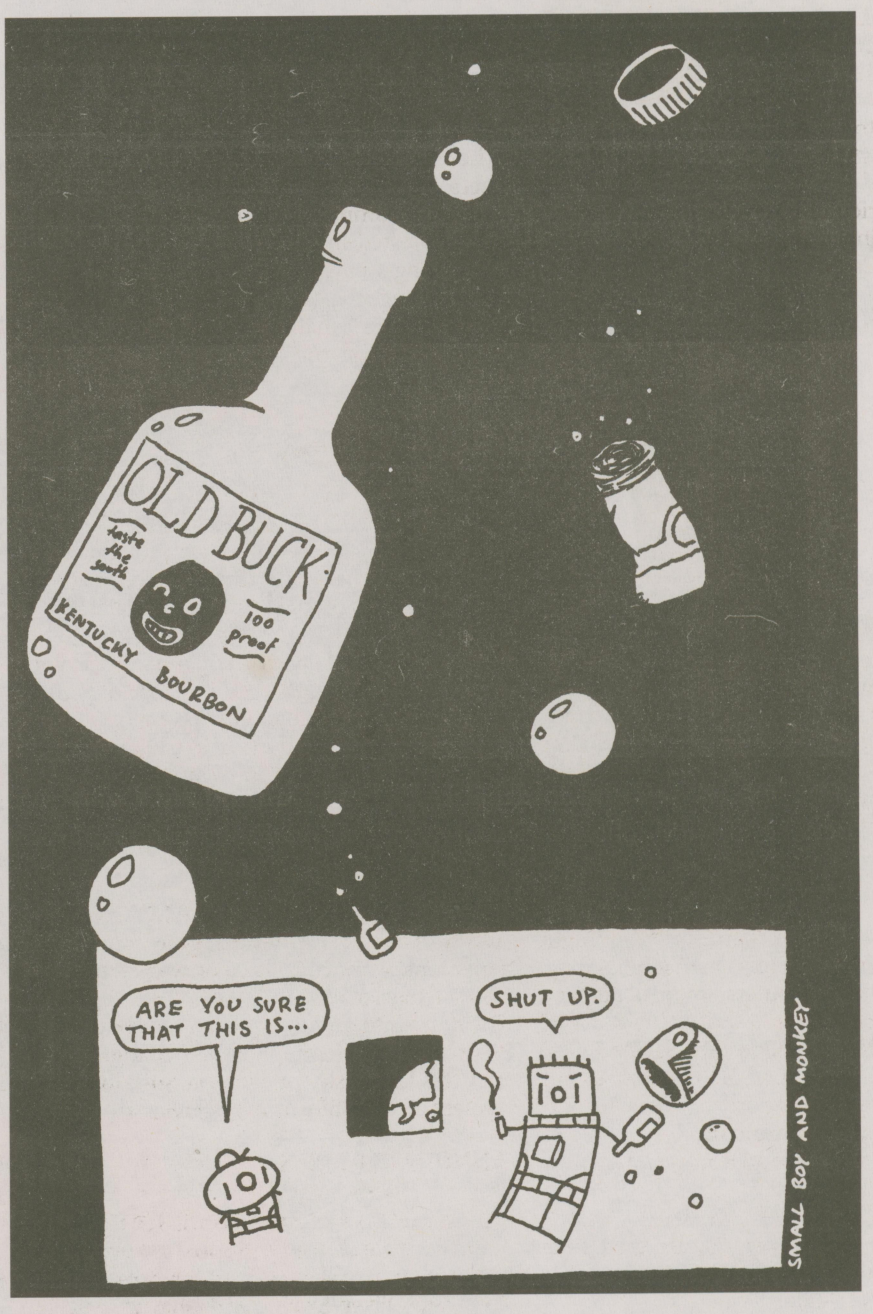
OUCH!
Those nasty neighbourhood kids pulled my tail!
This looks like a case of the chickens coming home to roost.
Chickens? What the hell are you talking about?
They probably did it because you bark at them all the time.
I do that because I've been trying to protect our property and our home!
That doesn't matter, they're responding to your oppression.
Is there anything that happens to me that's not my fault then?
Uhh..
I'll get back to you on that.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